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No. 658.

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[JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT.]

MATHEMATICAL and CLASSICAL LESSONS.—A GRADUATE in HONOURS of Cambridge, who has been First Classical and Mathematical Master in a large Foundation School, and is now giving Lessons daily to the sons of several Clergymen and Under-graduates, has one or two hours disengaged for PRIVATE PUPILS, either daily or on alternate days. The Advertiser is in the habit of giving Mathematical Instructions to Students in the Public Classical Schools. Address W. H. P., 3, Clement's Inn.

GOVERNESSES and TEACHERS.—Mons. F. DE FORQUET, Author of "Le Trésor de l'Ecolier Français," or the Office of Turning English into French at Sight, informs those who are averse to the medium of agents, that he keeps a LIST of clever TEACHERS and excellent GOVERNESSES. Attendance from 10 to 12 o'clock. All letters, post paid, stating qualifications required, attended to. 11, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden.

DAILY GOVERNESS.—A LADY recently returned from the Continent would be happy to be engaged in ONE or TWO FAMILIES, merely to pursue the Intellectual part of Education, and well acquainted with the French Language and Literature, and would be found capable of carrying her Pupils very far in their English Studies.—Address to E. S. S., 8, Arundel-street, Strand.

AN ITALIAN MIDDLE-AGED GENTLEMAN, who speaks also with equal fluency the French and English Languages, offers himself as TRAVELLING COMPANION to a Family, or a Gentleman, who may be about to visit Italy. The Advertiser is of a cheerful disposition, and well acquainted with the manners and customs of the Continent. He possesses a good general knowledge of the French Language, and has been long accustomed to Tutorship. An interview is solicited, which will afford the means of satisfaction as to abilities. The first references can be given. Direct, post paid, to A. D. M., Brooks, Bookbinder, 310, Regent-street.

PHILOLOGICAL SCHOOL.—PATRONAGE. THE QUEEN. Founded in 1792, for the Education of Sons of Clergymen, Naval and Military Officers, Professional men, Clerks in Public Offices, the higher order of Tradesmen, and other persons of an equally respectable class society in reduced circumstances.—THE ANNUAL EXAMINATION of the Boys of this School will be held on SATURDAY the 13th inst., in the Lecture Theatre, 17, Edwards-street, Portman-square, when the chair will be taken by the Hon. the Lord PORTMAN, at 10 o'clock precisely.

EDWIN ABBOTT, Secretary.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON EXHIBITIONS at the GARDEN.—The next Exhibition will take place on SATURDAY, the 13th of June. Fruit, Flowers, or other subjects intended for Exhibition, must be delivered at this Office on Friday the 13th, or at the Society's Garden at Turnham Green, before half-past 9 o'clock on the morning of the 13th. Fellows may obtain any number of Tickets for the admission of their friends at this Office, price 1s. each. The gates will be opened at 1 o'clock on the day of Exhibition. All tickets issued at the Garden will be charged 10s. each. 91, Regent-street.

HYDRO-OXYGEN MICROSCOPE.—A very superior Instrument of this description, constructed by CARY, for the researches of an eminent Physician and Physiologist, TO BE DISPOSED OF on moderate terms. May be seen, and particulars obtained on application at 181, Strand.

Sales by Auction.

SOUTHGATE'S ROOMS.

By Mr. SOUTHGATE, at his Rooms, 22, Fleet-street, on THURSDAY, June 11th, and two following days.

MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION of BOOKS in various departments of Literature; including Works on History, Medicine, Chemistry, Voyages and Travels, &c.; also the DUPLICATES of a CIRCULATING LIBRARY, comprising the Works of the most popular Modern Authors.—A valuable Selection of LAW BOOKS, including the Reports in the various Courts.—Various Numbers of recent Magazines, &c. &c. May be viewed, and Catalogues had.

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THE ENTIRE STOCK, STEREOTYPE PLATES, and COPYRIGHTS, of the highly valuable Works published as "THE NATIONAL LIBRARY," and upon which a sum exceeding 20,000l. has been expended. To an energetic and enterprising Publisher, New York, Country or Wholesale Bookseller, the present Sale presents an opportunity for the investment of capital, which rarely occurs, as the whole is intended for absolute sale. Liberal terms of credit will be offered.

MATHEMATICAL BOOKS.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION (by order of the Executors), by Mr. HOLDS, at his Room, 18, Fleet-street, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, June 10th, and two following days, at half-past 12.

THE VALUABLE MATHEMATICAL LIBRARY of the late THOMAS LEYBOURN, Esq. F.R.S. Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Military College, Sandhurst; including, among others,

Horsley's Newton, 5 vols.—Philosophical Transactions, abridged, 15 vols.—Daily and Mudge's Trigonometrical Surveys, 3 vols.—Hugenii Mathematica Opera, 4 vols.—Euleri Opera, 12 vols.—Crescentii Cyclopedie—Crelle's Mathematical Journal, 20 vols.—Maseres Scriptores Logarithmici, 6 vols.—Annales de Mathématiques, par Gargonne et Laverne, 21 vols.—Baily on Annular—Laplace's Mathematical Collections—Tillich's Philosophical Magazine, 1798 to 1839, 94 vols.—The Works of France, Newton, La Grange, De Moivre, Landon, Biot, Gregory, La Croix, Hutton, Landmann, Garnier, Nicholson, Barlow, Bonycastle, Vietor, Carnot, Hermonville, Wood, Laplace, Viesse, Herschel, Leslie, Emerson, &c. &c. Also, 318 Copies of Leybourn's Mathematical Questions, 4 vols. 8vo.—Simson's First Six Books of Euclid, 8vo.—and 220 Struik's Bija Ganita, or the Algebra of the Hindus, 4to. To be viewed, and Catalogues had.

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By JOHN CROSSE.

At the KING'S HEAD HOTEL, in the City of GLOUCESTER, where the same has been removed for the convenience of Sale, on MONDAY, the 8th day of June, 1840, and following days of business, until the whole is sold, being the Property of Mr. BENJAMIN BONNOI, a Bankrupt, and sold by order of his Assignees.

Such a collection of Works of Art and Literature is rarely offered for public sale, and must attract great attention. The Oil Paintings will be exhibited on the 8th and 9th of June; the Water-Colour Drawings on the 10th and 11th of June; the Engravings, &c. on the 12th and 13th of June; the Carvings, Annulars, &c. on the 14th of June; and the Books on the 15th and 16th of June.

The whole will be on view three days previous to the sale, by Catalogues only, to be had one week previous to the Sale, at Mr. CROSSE'S Offices, Gloucester, 20, Cecil-street, Strand, London; at the Midland Counties Herald Office, Birmingham; Manchester Guardian Office; Mercury Office, Liverpool; White Horse Inn, Bristol; Herald Office, Oxford; and at the George Hotel, Strand.

FUTURE AND EXISTING CHILDREN.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT SOCIETY LIFE ASSURANCE and ANNUITY OFFICE, No. 12, Chatham-place, Blackfriars, London. CAPITAL, 300,000l.

George Alfred Musket, Esq. M.P. Chairman. William Butterworth Bailey, Esq. Deputy Chairman. A married man, paying a yearly premium, or a single sum, varying according to the age of his wife, would secure to each of his future Children, however numerous, a specific sum on attaining any given age.

EXAMPLES.—Wife aged 21—51. 18s. 6d. Annual Premium for 22 years; or 134. 1s. 8d. paid in one sum, would entitle each Child attaining 21 years of age to 100l.

Life Assurance and Annuities effected on advantageous terms. STANDARD OF ENGLAND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 8, King William-street, City.—CAPITAL, ONE MILLION.

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THE very Economical Management of this Institution enables the Directors to offer to the Public the Lowest Rates of Premium, with perfect Security to the Assured; which will be found advantageous in so many cases, and especially on Insurances for limited periods.

Liberal Commissions are allowed to Solicitors and Agents. Increasing Business.

Annual Premium for 100l. payable during

Age.	First five Years.	Second five Years.	Third five Years.	Fourth five Years.	Remainder of Life.
20	£1 10 0	£1 10 0	£1 10 0	£1 10 0	£1 10 0
25	1 3 6	1 7 8	1 14 5	2 14 2	2 9 7
30	1 10 4	1 17 2	2 5 6	3 15 8	3 8 4
35	1 14 6	1 14 8	2 14 8	3 14 8	3 4 3

By order of the Board of Directors, WM. WRIGHT, Sec.

ASYLUM FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC LIFE OFFICE, 70, Cornhill, and 5, Waterloo-place, London.

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RENEWABLE TERM POLICIES.

A person aged 30, insuring for 100l. at death, whenever it may happen, begins by paying 1l. 6s. 4d. for the first year's insurance, 1l. 7s. 1d. for the second year, and so on, with slight increase of premium annually, until the age of 70, when he will have to pay a fixed premium for every year of life thereafter. The same principle and advantage may be applied to any age under 70, or any sum not exceeding 500l.

By these means, persons may use their Policies as Term Insurances as long as they please, paying only the price of the term, with the singular advantage of confining them as whole life Insurances, without further testimonials or trouble, in case deteriorated health or other circumstances should make a continuance desirable.

Extracts from the EVEN RATES for select Lives in England.

AGE.	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Prem.	1 11 9	2 2 0	2 17 1	4 2 0	6 10 9	10 8 6	19 1 8

ALTERNATIVE.

Two-thirds, only, of the above rates may be paid down, and the balance, with interest at 4 per cent, deducted from the sum assured.

ASCENDING SCALE OF PREMIUM.

Beginning at very low Rates, and progressing.

DESCENDING SCALE OF PREMIUM.

Commencing at high Rates, and decreasing at will of parties.

FOREIGN, AND MILITARY AND NAVAL INSURANCE.

Distinct classifications of places, according to salubrity of climate; a specific price for any particular place, or a voyage or voyage.

Officers whose destination are not known, covered to all parts of the world at a small but fixed extra rate of premium.

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Females need not appear; the rates for diseases are moderate, and Policies are granted to persons of advanced age.

70, Cornhill. GEO. FAIRBANK, Resident Director. May, 1840.

THE AUSTRALASIAN, COLONIAL, and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE and ANNUITY COMPANY.

Capital, £200,000. In 2,000 Shares.

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The following advantages are offered by this Association:—The guarantee of an ample subscribed capital.

Unusually favourable rates, calculated with reference to Australasian Investments.

Participation in Profits at the end of every five years.

All the customary varieties of accommodation afforded by ascending and descending scales; optional retention of one-third of premiums; license to proceed without extra charge to other countries, &c.

Residences in India assured on moderate terms.

Specimens of the Policies payable for the Assurance of 100l.

Age.—Annual Premium.

Age.	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
£ s d	1 10 3	1 14 8	1 17 2	2 0 0	2 3 4	2 6 4	2 10 8

Specimens of Annuities receivable for every 100l. invested.

Age.—Annual Premium.

Age.	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
£ s d	6 1 6	6 6 6	6 7 8	6 8 0	6 10 3	6 10 3	6 10 3

Female: 6 3 6 6 9 4 6 19 2 7 14 4 1 0 19 8

CHRISTOPHER COUSINS, Accountant.

Company's Office, 156, Bishopsgate-street, London.

THE YORKSHIRE FIRE and LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, established at YORK, 1824, empowered by Act of Parliament.—Capital, 500,000l.

Patrons.—The Archbishops of York, Sir Francis Lawley, Bart. M.P. The Marquis of Londonderry, Sir W. B. Cooke, Bart. Earl Fitzwilliam, Sir W. A. Ingham, Bart. M.P. The Earl of Tyrconnel, Sir S. Crompton, Bart. M.P. The Earl of Zetland, The Archbishop of York, The Bishop of Gloucester, The Bishop of Ripon, The Archbishop of Cleveland, G. F. Barlow, Esq. Lord Hotham, M.P. Lord Howden, G.C.B. K.C. Lord Venklok, Sir E. M. Vavasour, Bart. Hon. E. R. Petre.

Actuary and Secretary.—Mr. W. L. Newman.

The Terms of this Company for LIFE INSURANCES will be found on comparison to be the lowest which can be taken with safety, and particularly for FEMALE LIVES, the lowest charged by any Office in the Kingdom.—The following extracts from the median (complete Copies of which, with the Rates for the intermediate Ages, may be had on application at the Office in York or any of the Agents,) will show the Annual Premiums required for securing 100l. payable on the decease of

A MALE.

Age next Birthday.	Premiums for One Year.	Premiums for Seven Years.	Premiums for Whole Life.
20	£0 17 8	£0 18 4	£1 14 4
30	2 12 8	1 10 2	2 1 0
40	3 10 8	4 8 0	6 6 0
50	9 16 0	11 10 6	13 4 4

A FEMALE.

Age next Birthday.	Premiums for One Year.	Premiums for Seven Years.	Premiums for Whole Life.
20	£0 17 8	£0 18 4	£1 11 6
30	1 5 0	1 7 3	2 12 0
40	2 10 8	3 10 0	5 12 0
50	13 7 0	15 10 0	15 12 0

Table of Premiums payable for a fixed number of years only.

A MALE.

Age next Birthday.	Annual Premiums payable for 10 Years only.	Annual Premiums payable for 15 Years only.	Annual Premiums payable for 20 Years only.
20	£2 7 9	£3 4 3	£4 1 4
30	6 4 0	4 12 6	3 17 4
40	7 6 4	5 11 0	4 13 4

A FEMALE.

Age next Birthday.	Annual Premiums payable for 10 Years only.	Annual Premiums payable for 15 Years only.	Annual Premiums payable for 20 Years only.
20	£1 3 0	£1 1 0	£2 9 9
30	5 12 8	4 3 10	3 9 8
40	6 17 2	5 3 0	4 7 8

Table of Premiums payable on a Seven Years' ascending Scale.

A MALE.

Age next Birthday.	Annual Premiums payable first 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable second 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable for remainder of Life.
20	£1 4 0	£1 9 4	£2 3 4
30	2 9 0	3 1 3	3 8 8
40	3 2 6	4 19 0	5 12 0

A FEMALE.

Age next Birthday.	Annual Premiums payable first 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable second 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable for remainder of Life.
20	£1 4 0	£1 9 6	£1 16 8
30	1 10 10	2 7 0	3 8 2
40	2 11 3	3 7 0	4 10 0

Premiums payable on a Seven Years' descending Scale.

A MALE.

Age next Birthday.	Annual Premiums payable first 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable second 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable for remainder of Life.
20	£2 3 10	£1 14 6	£1 7 9
30	3 10 0	2 10 0	2 10 0
40	3 8 6	4 1 9	2 3 6

A FEMALE.

Age next Birthday.	Annual Premiums payable first 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable second 7 Years.	Annual Premiums payable for remainder of Life.
20	£2 3 10	£1 11 6	£1 8 9
30	3 9 4	2 10 0	1 17 7
40	4 17 8	3 13 3	2 2 9

Insurances of the following description may also be effected at this Office, viz.: On the First Death of Two Lives; on the Longest of Two Lives; on the First Death of Three Lives; on the Longest of Three Lives; on the Decase of One Life before another. ANNUITIES and REVERSIONS PURCHASED AND ANNUITIES GRANTED.

FIRE INSURANCES are effected by this Company at the most Moderate Rates for every description of Property. FARMING STOCK insured without the introduction of any adverse Clause.

Agents are wanted in those Towns where no Appointments have been made; the Commissions allowed are such as to render the Agencies worthy the attention of respectable Parties. Applications to be made to

Mr. W. L. NEWMAN, Actuary and Secretary, York.

THE WESTMINSTER and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

At the WESTMINSTER FIRE OFFICE,
No. 27, King-street, Covent-garden.

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Advantages offered by this Association:
Four-fifths, or 80 per cent, of the total profits, are divided among the Assured, at intervals of six months.
The Profits respectively allotted may be received by the Assured in present money, or by reduction of the Annual Premium, or by adding to the Policy a request for a reversionary sum. All Persons assured on their own lives for 1,000, or upwards, have the right (after two Annual payments) of attending and voting at all General Meetings.
The Premiums for all ages under 20 are lower than those adopted by a large number of Offices, but are such as to afford ample security to the Assured. W. M. BROWNE, Actuary.

THE LONDON, EDINBURGH, and DUBLIN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, No. 3, Charter-row, Mansion House, London.—Capital £500,000.

Directors—A. Anderson, Esq.
John Atkins, Esq.
James Bidden, Esq.
Capt. F. Brandreth.
Vice-Adm. Roderick Longman.
Benjamin Hill, Esq.
Alexander Robertson, Esq., Managing Director.

Important and salutary improvements have been introduced into Life Assurance practice by this Company.
The Policies or Contracts of Assurance are indefeasible and indisputable.
The whole Profits of the Mutual or Participating Branch of Assurance, are divided amongst the assured of that Class, who are relieved from all responsibility.
Medical Gentlemen are in all cases remunerated by the Company for their reports.

A Liberal Commission allowed to Solicitors and Agents.
One-half of the first seven years Premiums may remain unpaid, affording a greater facility for Loan Transactions than any other plan which has been suggested—allowing a Policy to be dropped at one-half of the usual sacrifice—and entitling the assured at a future period, when loss of health may prevent him from obtaining a New Assurance, to continue a Policy for double the amount of the sum for which he has paid Premiums.

Half Premium Credit Table to assure 100, payable at Death.

1st Year.	2nd Year.	3rd Year.	4th Year.	5th Year.	6th Year.	7th Year.
20 10 18	20 10 18	20 10 18	20 10 18	20 10 18	20 10 18	20 10 18
25 1 0 2	25 1 0 2	25 1 0 2	25 1 0 2	25 1 0 2	25 1 0 2	25 1 0 2
30 1 3 7	30 1 3 7	30 1 3 7	30 1 3 7	30 1 3 7	30 1 3 7	30 1 3 7
35 1 7 1	35 1 7 1	35 1 7 1	35 1 7 1	35 1 7 1	35 1 7 1	35 1 7 1
40 1 11 5	40 1 11 5	40 1 11 5	40 1 11 5	40 1 11 5	40 1 11 5	40 1 11 5
45 1 16 0	45 1 16 0	45 1 16 0	45 1 16 0	45 1 16 0	45 1 16 0	45 1 16 0
50 2 0 3	50 2 0 3	50 2 0 3	50 2 0 3	50 2 0 3	50 2 0 3	50 2 0 3

UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 8, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, London.

The first Septennial Division of Profits of this Company will be declared in the ensuing year on all Policies of the participating class effected previous to the 31st December, 1840. Parties, therefore, who wish to insure their Lives, and to avail themselves of the opportunity they now have of sharing in the bonus so soon to be declared by immediately making proposals.

The following are the Annual Premiums for the assurance of 100, for the whole period of life, on which half credit may be allowed for five years; which credit may remain at five per cent. interest, to be deducted at death from the sum insured:—

Age.	Without Profit.	With Profit.
20.....	£1 13 10	£1 13 s per Cent.
30.....	2 3 10	2 8 2
40.....	2 10 1	3 0 0
50.....	2 19 6	4 10 7

Annual Premium for assuring 100, payable at a fixed age, or at death, should it occur before the party attains that age:—

Age to be attained.	Sixty.	Sixty-five.	Seventy.
Age 20.....	£2 6 1	£2 2 4	£2 0 0
Age 30.....	3 2 10	2 15 2	2 10 6
Age 40.....	4 19 0	4 0 3	3 9 7
Age 50.....	10 14 10	7 8 1	5 12 2

EXAMPLE.—A person aged 20, by paying an annual premium of £1, becomes entitled to 100, on his attaining the age of 70, or to the same sum should he die before arriving at that age. For the convenience of parties residing in the City, they may make their appearance and pass the medical examination before the Agents, Edward Frederick Leake, Esq., 4, Scots-yard, Bush-lane, Cannon-street; S. F. Youde, Esq., Surgeon, 5, Old-lerry. Every information will be afforded on application to the Resident Director, Edward Hord, Esq., No. 8, Waterloo-place. Proposals may be accepted on Wednesday 2 o'clock, and any other day appearance may be made at half-past 2 o'clock, when Frederick Hale Thomson, Esq., the Company's Surgeon, is in attendance. EDWARD LENOX BOYD, Sec.

BOOKS.
This day is published (to be obtained GRATIS).
A CATALOGUE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND VOLUMES OF SECOND-HAND BOOKS, chiefly in Divinity and Miscellaneous Literature, on Sale, in good condition, and very low prices, by T. MILLARD, No. 70, Newgate-street, City.—Libraries purchased or exchanged, &c.

LAW OF MARRIAGE.—At a Meeting of parties aggrieved by the existing restrictions upon Marriage, held at the Office of Messrs. CROWDER and MAYNARD, No. 3, Mansion-house Place, London, on Thursday, the 21st of May, a Committee, consisting of seven of the gentlemen present, was appointed (with power to add to their number), to take the necessary steps for obtaining the repeal of the objectionable restrictions upon Marriage, and more particularly that which prohibits marriage with a deceased Wife's Sister; and it was resolved, that the objects of the meeting should be forthwith published in such of the London and Provincial papers as the Committee might think proper, with a view to obtain the active co-operation of all parties interested.—Communications to be addressed to Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, as above.

THE MONTHLY CHRONICLE for JUNE

contains—1. The Editor's Room.—2. The Final Darkness, by J. E. Heade, Esq. Author of 'Italy,' &c.—3. Social Despotism of Austria; the Imprisonment of Andranos.—4. Influence of Eloquence on English Freedom: Lord Chatham, Wilkes.—5. General View of Modern Italian Literature.—6. Notes of a Tour in Northern Europe, Part III.—7. The Bjarke Mass. From the Norse, by John G. F. Rivington, Esq.—8. Some Recollections of Childhood, No. V.—9. Sketches of Spanish Generals; the Baron de los Valles—10. New Books.
London: Longman, Orme, & Co.

THE FIRST VOLUME OF FRASER'S MAGAZINE for the YEAR 1840

is now ready, price 16s. 6d. bound in cloth and lettered. It contains 78 pages of closely printed matter. The contents are more than usually interesting and important, combining papers on Politics, Literature, Religion, the Fine Arts, Reviews, Poetry, Tales, and Narratives, &c. &c.
James Fraser, 215, Regent-street; and all Booksellers.

THE BRITISH MAGAZINE, No. CIII. for JUNE, price 2s. 6d. LEADING CONTENTS:—

No. 4.—Antichrist in the Thirteenth Century, No. 7.—The Respect due to Antiquity, No. 3.—Fascism in Scotland.—On Lay Patronage.—Church Architecture in India.—The Apocalyptic Symbols.—Modern Vandalism.—Church Vestments, and the Rubric for Vigils.—Rev. E. Churton on the Conversion of the Hon. and Rev. G. Spencer.—Rev. W. B. Winning on the 'Egypto-Turan' 'Dionysian'—Pythagoras Redivivus.—Rev. Cecil Wyke on the Liverpool Collegiate Institute.—The Scotch Presbyterians.—Church Matters.—An Argument on the Braintree Church Rate Question by one of the Churchwardens, with an Appendix of Authorities and the Judgment.—Reports of the Church Societies.—Sacred Poetry.—Wesleyan Matters.—Dissenting Matters.—Documents relating to Church Affairs.—And its usual Monthly Register of Religious and Ecclesiastical Information. This Number contains a copious Index, and completes the Seventeenth Volume.
J. G. F. & J. Rivington, St. Paul's Churchyard, and Waterloo-place, Pall Mall; J. Turbill, 250, and T. Clerc Smith, Regent-street.

EDITED BY THEODORE HOOK, ESQ.

THE JUNE NUMBER OF COLBURN'S NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE and HUMORIST.

Edited by THEODORE HOOK, Esq., contains:
Fathers and Sons, by the Editor, illustrated by Phil. Maxims and Maxim-mongers.
The Left-handed Maxim, concluded, by the Hon. Mrs. Erskine Norton.
Piron, or the Small Mistake.
Sketches from the Note Book of a Physician.
A Chapter on Gastronomy.
Henry Colburn, Publisher, 13, Great Marlborough-street.

ARMY AND NAVY. THE JUNE NUMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL; AND

NAVAL and MILITARY MAGAZINE, contains:

The Duke of Wellington.
The Turkish Fleet.
The Campaign of Afghanistan, in a series of letters, by an Officer of the Queen's Regiment, the 4th Buffs, the Victoria, No. 6.
Recollections of the Expedition to the Chesapeake, against New Orleans, in the years 1814–15, by an old Sub.
The British Colonies considered as Military Posts, by Lieut.-Col. Walker.
Recollections of an Old Soldier, by his Daughter.
Memoirs of Edward Costello, K.S.F.
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LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1840.

REVIEWS

Three Years' Residence in Canada from 1837 to 1839, &c. By T. R. Preston, late of the Government Service at Toronto. 2 vols. Bentley.

THIS publication, such as it is, will not be without its use; for, though falling short in the information so necessary to awaken public attention and enlighten the public conscience, it will still, if attentively perused, convey good evidences of the state of things in Canada, and, by begetting a desire for further intelligence, create a demand for publications of a higher character. It is doing Mr. Preston no injustice to say, that he is not equal to the subject he has undertaken. The facts collected during a three years' residence are few, and so indistinctly presented as to fail in making a lasting impression. In truth, they are offered more frequently in general than in specific detail, and nearly the same amount of information might have been extracted, by a judicious compiler, from state papers and pamphlets, to be had at home, as is here offered as the result of personal observation. This generalizing disposition, moreover, is not accompanied by the perspicuity and unity of thought, which is often a compensation for defective data. There is little pervading philosophy about the work; and the various statements do not always point the same way as the general conclusions. The author confounds causes and effects, and attributes particular events to accidental circumstances, which evidently flow from deeper seated grievances, whose agency he himself at other times faithfully displays.

Mr. Preston very clearly states the dilemma in which this country is placed respecting Canada, that if the colony receive, through a good administration, that development to which its physical circumstances lead, it must eventually set up as an independent state; whereas, if its growth be impeded by vexatious legislation, it must fall into the arms of America:—

"Instead, then, of looking on her North American provinces, as mere colonies, and instead of seeking to retain them as such for an indefinite period, England should regard them as *parts of a future nation*, and, treating them accordingly, should qualify them to become such. The rule of generalization she has adopted with regard to all her colonies, indiscriminately, without sufficient reference to the peculiar local circumstances of each, has constituted the great evil of her system of Colonial Government. What is suited to detached islands is unsuited to continents or sections thereof, nor could anything prove more fatal, in the case of Canada, than continuing to act on a contrary belief. In her past treatment of that country, England has practically borne out the remark of Bentham, who says, in speaking of colonists, 'little is cared for their affection, nothing is feared from their resentment, and their despair is contemned.' Let it be hoped that her future policy will be of a different character. Inasmuch as, for the reasons stated, it will be henceforth the endeavour of the American citizens (if present war be averted) to retard or stunt the growth of the Canadas, so long as they remain British colonies, so should it be the endeavour of England to counteract those machinations, by working steadily towards the end of raising Canada to a condition admitting alike of self-government and self-defence; transferring, at a ripe maturity, a present weak dependence into a strong independent power, which, from the triple bond of feeling, interest, and similarity of institutions, should possess a natural leaning towards herself, and become an efficient local counterpoise to the ambition or hostility of the United States. * * To this end, in lieu of frittering away invaluable time in profitless legislation, for a weak, scanty population, it is of paramount necessity to increase forthwith the physical strength of the country. * * If England effect-

ally sustains her North-American provinces now, they will prove a shield to her hereafter; whereas, if she loses them prematurely,—that is, before they are sufficiently qualified to stand alone,—their future strength will be turned against her."

With reference to this point, a comparison between the condition of the American and Canadian States is an important item: and we find it thus briefly drawn by the author:—

"Speaking generally, however, of contrasts between Canadian and American objects indicative of relative progressive improvement, I lament to add my humble testimony to that of many other visitors to both countries, that the comparison is immeasurably in favour of the States; and the fact is rendered strikingly apparent to the unbiassed observer, not simply by his passing through the States on his way to Canada, but by his residing in the latter country for a lengthened period, then traversing the neighbouring States, and afterwards returning to the British territory. The effect of such transition cannot perhaps be better illustrated than by supposing that you have plunged unconsciously from a stagnant pond into a vivifying stream, and tumbled from the latter back again into a miry slough."

In attempting to account for this difference Mr. Preston comes to the following lame and impotent conclusion:—

"Let not, however, the fundamental cause of this humiliating contrast be misunderstood, by ascribing it to a difference of political institutions; but rather let it be traced to its chief originating source, the virtual exclusion of capital and labour from the country, owing to the injudicious alienation of their primary aliment—land."

We are far from undervaluing the influence of that portion of the bungling legislation of the mother country which relates to land, nor are we disposed to over-estimate the working of republican institutions; but while we must laugh at the quackish reference of all evil to the one fact of an injudicious proceeding in the distribution of wastes, we are not prohibited from granting the author's postulate for argument's sake; and doing so, we ask whether the prevalence of aristocratic elements in our own institutions, has not had something to do with landed arrangements? We see, indeed, in these few lines of description, proof of the incapacity of the mother country to legislate for the colony; we further see enough to explain the discontents of the Canadians, without reference to agitators, either French or American. This outcry against agitators, is a counterpart of that which is raised at home, in respect to Ireland, and the points of coincidence between the two countries are many: men are not to be persuaded into discontent—an agitator without a grievance is a steam-engine without fuel. In vain he cries out against imaginary wrongs; there is nothing within to respond to the cry, and the agitator excites no sympathy in his audience.

With respect to the question of Clergy Reserves we find the following testimony, which, at the present moment, is worthy of consideration:—

"They who, from personal observation, are aware of the minute sectarianism, and the spirit of religious independence, which obtain so generally in Upper Canada, will at once concur in the opinion that no dominant church, of any kind whatsoever, could have maintained itself there, even had such been established in the outset; while to hope for the establishment of one now, or of anything in the least approaching to it, would be the very acme of self-delusion. This is obvious, when it is borne in mind that the ranks of Canadian society are essentially recruited by individuals who are not of the Episcopal Church of England; and that no one great Christian denomination sufficiently predominates over the other to entitle it to anything savouring of exclusive privileges. * *"

"The reserves consist of one-seventh part of all surveyed lands throughout the province, and were set apart pursuant to a provision made at the time of the division of the province of Quebec, for the

support, as the terms expressed, of the Protestant religion. The ambiguity of this wording, while it has given rise to much ingenious controversy, both in and out of Canada, appears to baffle satisfactory solution. But, whatever might have been intended, it should seem obvious that the designation in question does not necessarily imply, even in spirit, a purely episcopal clergy, and therefore, each pretending party is left an opportunity of construing the meaning according to its own particular view. We may be assured, however, that no degree of precision would have sufficed to overcome the jealousy which speciality would have excited on the part of a community whose components are of the character of those described. Argument, therefore, upon the matter becomes useless; the Canadian people will have a distribution of some kind; and where are the means available, supposing their employment to be justifiable, of resisting their fixed determination?"

"Though the settlement of the long-agitated 'Clergy Reserves' question by any pacific means whatsoever would be a positive gain, inasmuch as it would serve to tranquillize the country, it is another matter how far any measure of adjustment, founded on mere temporary expedience, might prove lasting, or avert the possible contingency of an eventual confiscation of the whole endowment for purposes other than those of a religious nature. Under existing circumstances, this much, at least, is certain, that by seeking to preserve an exclusive claim to all, the episcopal clergy will lose all, whatever may be the prospective chances of their remaining in the permanent enjoyment of such part as a present division might appear to secure to them."

"They who argue the religious cause of Canada, by analogy with that of England, argue upon fallacious grounds, since not the shadow of analogy exists between the two cases. A land endowment in Upper Canada, for religious purposes, (particularly if they be of a special nature,) must be considered as in every respect unsuited to the primitive condition of the country: because it not only defeats its own object by retarding general progress, but subverts the social order which it is its professed object to maintain."

These remarks exhibit the common sense view of the subject; and it is difficult to suppress a smile when we see an appeal made to the Judges respecting the meaning of an act for distributing the reserves to the clergy of this or that sect in Canada, while no thought is given to a point ulterior to all legislation, the right of the Canadians to their own soil, and to its assignment to teachers of their own choosing.

Turning to the descriptive portion of these volumes, we shall make a few extracts to give an idea of the manner in which Mr. Preston has executed this part of his task. We begin with the author's account of the reception, at Montreal, of the news of the "decisive business at St. Charles," a victory which, for the time, closed the prospects of the Canadians as to their independence:—

"The day happened to be Sunday, and at the moment when the steam-boat, having on board the messenger, reached the wharf, the different edifices of public worship were pouring forth their congregations. The animated scene which ensued, all parties being alike eager, I have still vividly before me. A general rush was made down the narrow streets which lead from the Rue Notre Dame and the Place d'Armes to the wharf, but long before the fact itself was generally promulgated, loud and long-repeated cheers from the British had announced to the panic-stricken French Canadians the destruction of their hopes and expectations.—I chanced to overhear, on my way home from the wharf, on the day in question, between an elderly lady and gentleman, the former of whom was standing at an open window, eagerly interrogating the latter as to the nature of the news.—'Et les troupes sont donc victorieuses?' said the querist.—'Hélas! oui,' replied her companion.—'St. Charles pris, dites vous?'—'Non seulement pris, à ce qu'on prétend, mais brûlé—détruit, enfin!'—'Que sont devenus nos gens?'—'La plupart tués ou prisonniers—le reste éparé et en fuite!'—Dieu de

dieu !' exclaimed the old lady, wringing her hands ; 'quelles horreurs que vous me racontez là ! que ferons-nous ? que deviendrons-nous ?'—'Faut espérer,' replied her companion, shrugging his shoulders, and looking as resigned as he could ; which expression, with its significant enforcement, I readily interpreted to imply, 'better luck next time !' "

The author's account of the impressions made on him by American scenery, is, we doubt not, of very general application :—

"All is vast, solitary grandeur, in the contemplation of which the mind becomes insensibly depressed, at the consciousness of its inability to compass the imposing magnitude of surrounding objects. I have heard many persons, not natives of the country, make this observation ; and for myself, I can bear ready testimony to its truth, as applied not only to Canada, but generally to such parts of the North American continent as I have visited. If you traverse its vast lakes, if you penetrate its deep pine-forests, if you cross its wide-extending plains, nay, if you wander by the way-side in the outskirts of its towns, you are alike struck with a sense of surpassing loneliness, with a sort of melancholy, at finding yourself an isolated unit, as it were, in the midst of a space so large ; knowing, as you do, in the one case, that you are *not* upon the ocean, and in the other, that you are not treading upon a newly-discovered soil !"

This extract is followed by some details of scenery of another description :—

"The only instance in which I remember having failed to acknowledge this influence, was whilst traversing at sunrise, one fine morning in summer, the Lake of the Thousand Islands, a wide expansion of the St. Lawrence, a few miles below Kingston ; and I might then have fairly fancied myself transported into a fairy land, but for the steam-boat destroying the illusion. The whole scene was surpassingly lovely. The water undisturbed by a single ripple, save what the passage of the boat created, presented the appearance of a mass of molten metal ; while surrounding you far and near in every direction, were islands, some of the most tiny kind, either scattered or in groups, and all densely covered, to the water's edge, with the richest imaginable foliage. As you advanced, all egress from the labyrinth seemed closed against you ; when presently, an opening, before unobserved, would present itself, and, darting through it, you would find yourself in the midst of a fresh scene of similar beauty ; the whole series being continued for a space of eighteen or twenty miles, under every variety of shape, aspect, and calm repose ; and the reigning solitude alone disturbed by your intrusion, or the flight of some bird that you had been the means of scaring. The picture wanted nothing to complete it but the presence of an Indian, in his primitive garb, paddling a canoe ; and to have seen one wending his way, in such a guise at such a moment, would have imparted a keen relish to the positive enjoyment felt. The number of these islands never has been, and probably never can be, correctly ascertained ; though nominally a thousand, they are computed to be at least eighteen hundred, and may possibly be more. * * Since I last visited them, a notoriety has been given to them which they did not before possess, by the exploits of a man rejoicing in the appellation of 'Bill Johnson,' a sort of American pirate-brigand, who, taking advantage of the troubled period succeeding the insurrection, selected them alternately as his place of resort, from whence to carry on marauding depredations along the Canadian shore : a system of harassing warfare which he was enabled to practice with impunity for a considerable length of time, owing to the secrecy of his movements, the fleetness of his skiff, and the supineness, or, what is perhaps nearer to the truth, the indifference of the American authorities ; his exploits being eventually only put an end to by the perseverance of cruising parties from the British naval station at Kingston. Nor were the thousand islands without their 'Lady of the Lake,' if the appellation may be given to the buccaneer's daughter, who sojourned with him, in his sylvan abode, and was said to be equally dexterous with himself in the management of his unrivalled skiff, which was represented to be so light and portable as to admit of ready transportation from place to place. A sort of romance was thrown

around these two personages of the 'Canadian drama ;' and a belief in half the reports that were current of their marvellous proceedings, involving almost the power of ubiquity and prescience, would trench very closely upon a belief in the supernatural. They were at one time almost objects of idolatry among the Canada-liberating population of the American frontier, and were received whosoever they went with corresponding honour : but their star is no longer in the ascendant ; like other once popular characters, they have had their day, and are now seldom heard of. The scene of their adventures, with the adventurers themselves, would furnish ample material to the dramatist or romance-writer disposed and able to turn them to account ; and it is only surprising in these days of trans-atlantic steaming, that a theme so fertile should have been lost sight of by the caterers to the amusement of that very numerous branch of John Bull's family, the lovers of the marvellous. Only imagine, for instance, the charm attaching to some such a romantic title as '*The Lake of the Thousand Islands, or the Buccaneer's Daughter !*' It would be irresistible ; and, on the doctrine that thousands produce thousands, must be highly profitable."

We will subjoin a description of Toronto, a town that has engaged so much temporary notice, and then take our leave :—

"Toronto, though exhibiting little to bear out its pretensions either as a city or a capital, and still less to justify the metropolitan airs which the *élite* of its denizens assume, is a place bearing (unlike Kingston) the appearance of having been much improved within these last few years ; but it as yet possesses only one good street, which runs east and west, and this is in some parts advantageously set off with an array of well-filled shops and stores. At the western extremity of such street, on opposite sides of the road, stand a sort of overgrown party-coloured cottage, dignified by the name of 'Government-house,' and a neat assemblage of red brick buildings, comprising the school-house and private dwellings, appertaining to 'Upper Canada College,' of whose history I shall hereafter speak. Between the Government-house and the bay an unseemly mass of brickwork, encasing the legislative chambers and various of the public offices, rears its head ; while a mile beyond this again, is an ill-constructed stocade-sort of fort, with an in-commodious barrack within its circuit. Eastward, Toronto's chief edifices are, a church, a bank, a town-hall, (having behind it a market place,) and lastly, a sessions-house and goal, besides a second prison-house in progress of construction, to signify the moral improvement of the people. This end of the town is much eschewed as vulgar, by the high order of patricians, whose abodes, consisting in many cases of good-sized, substantial, though isolated houses, are for the most part situated in the three opposite directions.—Nevertheless, the city of Toronto will not bear mentioning in the same breath with either of the American towns Rochester or Buffalo, (both, I believe, of later origin,) though I am aware that in making this assertion I incur the risk of being thought tasteless, not to say a rebel in disguise, by the majority of those amongst whom I have been so lately dwelling ; since they would consider as derogating from their city's dignity the mere institution of any such comparison."

In conclusion, we recommend these volumes, notwithstanding their defects, to the perusal of our readers. If read with any disposition to think and to judge, the work will hardly fail to instruct : some truths will start into evidence, sufficient at all events to show the importance of the matters now in discussion, if not always enough to throw a clear light on the merits of the case.

Babel.—Publication de la Société des Gens de Lettres. Vols. I. to IV. Paris, Renouard et Cie.

We have now before us four volumes of this work, with its title implying confusion, and its preface association ; and if the one is to be considered as neutralizing the other, then we get at what is (as we anticipated) the real fact of the case, and find that the book is just one more of that sort of collections which formed for years

the staple of the annual publications in this country, and have lately issued in numbers from the Paris press, beginning with the '*Book of the Hundred and One*.' The title is a bookseller's title, and the preface a bookseller's preface ; and, so far is the work from being anything like the manifesto of a body of associated intellectuals, that it has even less community of purpose than other publications of the class to which it belongs, and which have been generally held together by some such design as that of combining to illustrate in their varieties the phases of Parisian or provincial life. No such point of union is proposed to the various intellectual excursions which take all directions in the volumes before us ; and we are bound to add, that they are not calculated to conciliate us in favour of that species of literary republicanism which the publication affects to establish. The collection, as a whole, is not equal to other collections of a similar kind : but we have poetry from Victor Hugo, who seems to have been unwilling to assert too great a superiority over his colleagues—a pleasant paper from M. Viennet, the Academician, giving some account of his wanderings in the Eastern Pyrenees—a tale by M. de Balzac, exposing, in his own peculiar vein, some of the secrets of artist-life in Paris—and a paper by Alexandre de Lavergne, giving, under the general title of '*Historic Ruins*,' some particulars of interest relating to the famous community of Port-Royal-des-Champs. From this paper, we will take an illustration of the present volumes,—as well because it offers a sample of their best vintage, as because of the narrative itself, and that our readers may see how very small a man a *grand monarque* may be. There is surely no character in all modern history which has contrived to maintain its false estimation so long as that of Louis the Fourteenth. In youth and in age, in triumph as in adversity, for good or for evil, this king, whom the men of his day persuaded that he was a demigod, was ever a mere puppet in the hands of those who were nearest to the strings. All that was great and noble and tutelary in his nature was called into beneficial action while Colbert was by his side ; and all that remains to attest his glory is of that date. What he was in the hands of Madame de Maintenon and the Jesuits, let the history of Port-Royal, and many another dark history, tell.

Port-Royal-des-Champs.

Not far from Chevreuse, a small town, distant about seven leagues south-west of Paris, in the midst of a solitary plain, encircled by the shadow and stillness of forests, is seen a considerable extent of ground, covered with a poor and meagre vegetation ;—beneath which, the traveller comes upon moss-grown stones, and shapeless traces of former construction. On this spot, one hundred and thirty years ago, arose the towers of an abbey.

But the abbey was not one of those rich and fat abbeys, the abodes of luxury and high living, of which Rabelais has left the picture in his joyous writings—not Jumièges, with its marvels of Gothic architecture, nor Saint Trophyme, with its bold cloisters, nor Fontevault, where the veil covered so many a royal head,—but an assemblage of low, damp buildings, for the most part in a state of decay. In the distance, these buildings might have been taken for a farm, which its proprietor suffered to go to ruin, but for a large cross, of rusty iron and curious workmanship, that rose over the summit of the entrance gate, and showed, in the sunlight, some vestiges of its ancient gilding. The abbey had a garden, whose culture and design, partaking in no degree of the symmetrical magnificence which the celebrated LeNôtre had at that period introduced, showed sadly to the eye ; and a little further on, to the northward of the church, lay the humble and narrow cemetery. But the most learned men of the eighteenth century had planted that garden—Arnauld and Lancelot and Lemaître de Sacy—and thither had Blaise Pascal

come, to meditate, beneath its growing shades, the sublime book of his *Pensées*; and in that narrow and lowly cemetery reposed the remains of a mighty poet—Jean Racine! That solitude was Port-Royal-des-Champs.

What crowding memories hang around the old abbey, which seems to fling its shadow over the entire history of the eighteenth century! Its name is written on every page of those our annals—that name which broke the slumber of Louis XIV., and haunted his feasts, as the spectre of Banquo sat down at the banquet of Macbeth—that hydra, with a hundred cowed heads, which Louis XIV. vainly strove to muzzle, and, finding that impossible, determined to destroy.

The abbey of Port-Royal-des-Champs—founded, in 1204, by Eudes de Sully, Bishop of Paris,—was one of the most ancient and favoured female communities of the Cistercian order. Towards the close of the sixteenth century, however, this monastery had followed the general decline which the relaxation of morals, consequent upon the civil wars and the court corruption under the latter kings of the Valois race, had extended even to the religious communities. In 1602, Marie-Angélique Arnauld d'Andilly, a young girl, descended from an illustrious family, was made abbess. Little reason was there to anticipate that, under her government, the convent was destined to be regenerated.

The circumstances under which that regeneration took place, and the legend with which the traditions of the monastery connect them, our author proceeds to detail at length; and then goes on to paint the growing, glorious, and tragic fortunes of Port-Royal-des-Champs:—

From the period of the legend in question, dates a new era—that of the restoration of ecclesiastical discipline, and the rule of Saint-Benedict in all its rigour. The erotic poems of Ronsard and Baif, which had so charmed the nuns, were burnt, as a holocaust, in the midst of the cloisters, together with all those gauds and ornaments which had taken the place of woollen and sackcloth. Where the chords of the lute and the songs of the profane had echoed so long, were now heard the solemn harmonies of the Gregorian chant.

The reform of Port-Royal-des-Champs made great noise, and had the destiny which the holiest things have ever had—that of being the occasion of scandal to some, and of edification to others. But Louis XIII. had succeeded to Henri IV.—devotion to gallantry; and all Catholic France had soon its eyes fixed on Port-Royal-des-Champs. It was the pattern convent—an example to all who wore band or frock.

When, in 1626, the increase in the number of the nuns obliged the community to separate, one party removed into Paris, and inhabited the house of the order in the rue Saint-Jacques, whilst the other continued to dwell in the house in the fields;—a new species of consecration grew up around the old abbey, and science, now personified in the illustrious family of the Arnaulds, as religion had already been, brought its torch to light the regeneration of Port-Royal-des-Champs. Then it was, that illustrious recluses, renouncing, in the flower of their days, a world which had offered them only pleasures as yet, retired to dedicate their lives to silence and retreat, in the bosom of this desert. First, came Arnauld d'Andilly, and then Antoine Arnauld, the immortal doctor of the Sorbonne—one the brother, and the other the nephew, of the abbess. Letters, the sciences, the arts, the bar, arms—all the forms of knowledge which elevate humanity, and all the professions which honour it, had their representatives at Port-Royal;—and such representatives!—Lemaître de Sacy, the great juriconsult,—Lancelot, the famous philologist,—Nicole, the celebrated theologian,—Philippe de Champagne, the immortal painter,—and the last comer of them all, the most profound of our philosophers and boldest of our thinkers, Blaise Pascal! There, while some administered the personalities of the abbey, and laboured to re-establish its fortunes, others tilled the ground like simple husbandmen; and there, when the body was fatigued with these material occupations, they composed books for the instruction of youth—books which, two hundred years later, were still to serve as the basis

of education. Port-Royal-des-Champs became a school; and the great nobles of the kingdom aspired to the honour of having their children brought up there. And amongst these children was one who has no blazonry—the simple son of an honest burgher of La Ferté-Milon—but his name is Jean Racine! Port-Royal-des-Champs wanted nothing but a poet—and behold! he is found. Is it worth while, after all this, to mention that Queen Marie de Medicis took the abbey under her especial protection,—and Mdlle. de Scudéry has devoted a portion of her pages to it, in the romance of *Cécile*?

What glorious days were those when, in that humble and peaceful retreat, separated by a space so narrow from all the clamour that surrounded the throne of Louis XIV., wandered, in pensive musing, along the meadow and by the lake that inspired the bard of *Esther* and *Athalie* with his earliest song, all those great and noble forms—objects of admiration and respect, so long as virtue and science shall be honoured amongst men! To this day, too, all these illustrious dead seem yet to live in that picture of the Holy Supper, where Philippe de Champagne, having to paint the Apostles, thought he could do no better than choose for his models the pious recluses of Port-Royal-des-Champs. But the high fortunes of Port-Royal-des-Champs were, even then, verging towards their decline.

The Jesuits set to work silently to undermine an edifice which, as yet, they dared not attempt to storm. With this view, the books issuing from the learned pens of the recluses were subjected to a minute examination. What marvel if, in works dictated by faith the most enlightened and virtue the most pure, they managed to detect the germs of an alarming heresy. The famous book *De la fréquente Communion*, became the signal for a persecution, which was to be laid at rest only in the ruins of the ancient abbey. Its author, Antoine Arnauld, was forced to flee, in order to save himself from prosecution; and his relatives and friends were pointed out to the public indignation as enemies to God and the king.

Then were heard, for the first time, the famous names of Jansenists and Molinists,*—embodying a subtle and fatal distinction, which, in reviving the scholastic disputes of the middle ages, tended to separate into two opposing camps the followers of a common faith. Once stigmatized with the first of these epithets, the monastery of Port-Royal-des-Champs was stricken to the heart, and never recovered. That name was the black flag planted by an enemy on its walls. At length, Louis XIV., all whose confessors were Jesuits, yielded to the solicitations of that powerful party which had obtained from him the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and blotted out, with a stroke of his pen, one of the glories of his reign, by forbidding the nuns of Port-Royal thenceforth to receive noviciates. It was his will that, with the survivors of that glorious community, all which remained of the institution itself should descend to the grave. The nuns had hitherto dedicated themselves to the education of a few young girls of noble families,—these girls were snatched from them. They had some possessions derived from the piety of illustrious patrons,—and an edict was issued, which assigned this property to the community of Paris. They had confessors who possessed all their confidence—venerable old men, who had shared in the splendour of the abbey, and now consoled the daughters for its decay,—these ecclesiastics were prosecuted, flung into dungeons, or forced to fly the kingdom.

But the enemies of Port-Royal-des-Champs were not yet satisfied. So long as the abbey should exist, the Jesuits could not sleep in peace. Father Tellier, the king's confessor, daily repeated to him, that the only means of insuring his salvation was to break up, through an act of his sovereign will, a haughty community which had been formerly protected by the cardinal de Retz. This last argument was an unanswerable one with Louis,—who held in horror all the recollections of the Fronde. However, the abbey was still standing in the autumn of

* A certain Jansenius, Bishop of Ypres, had undertaken, in a book published after his death, to justify St. Augustine from the reproaches and criticisms urged against this father of the Church by the Jesuit Molina. Hence, the recluses of Port-Royal, who ardently espoused his doctrines, received the name of Jansenists,—in opposition to that of Molinists, assumed by their adversaries.

1709. But it was little better than a ruin, on whose crumbling walls might be read the terrible effects of the vengeance of a sect which never yet forgave its enemies.

Of the eighty nuns whom it formerly possessed, twenty-three only remained; for, by a sort of sympathetic coincidence, the monastery and its inmates seemed hastening together to a common tomb. One more summer had now elapsed; how many of the nuns were destined to look upon another? how many to witness even the return of the leaves? It would have soothed them, if, in their deep distress, aid and consolation could have reached them from without:—but no; to declare for them was to incur the most imminent danger, and even their nearest relatives were obliged to refrain from visiting them. Such was the will of Louis XIV. At length, the cardinal De Noailles grew indignant at their very resignation,—and forthwith fulminated against them the terrible sentence of excommunication.

Then, the courage of the poor sisters gave way. A world of feelings must be revived, which have no longer existence—a whole order of ideas restored, that are now far distant from our own,—ere we can be made fully to comprehend all the sufferings of these women, suddenly denied the practice of those pious duties which had formed their entire existence. No priest, to speak peace to their sorrows, and pardon to their sins,—the confessional was empty! No solemn ceremonies, or sacrifices of the mass,—day and night the altar was deserted, night and day the church was mute! They still repaired mechanically thither; as if they had hoped that God, in his infinite mercy, would work a miracle in their favour, and that there might rise up before them, at the altar, and clad in the sacred stole, some one of those venerable men who slept the sleep of eternity within a few paces of its foot. Alas! vainly did they light the tapers and deck the altar with the freshest flowers of the season;—the altar was still lonely, and still the church was mute!

Yet, in spite of all their sufferings, there was not one of those nuns who would have purchased back the enjoyment of all the blessings she had lost, at the price of abandoning the dilapidated walls of her ruined monastery. There was so much consolation in suffering together! It is said that a happiness which we cannot communicate becomes almost a burthen; but an evil which is shared is near akin to happiness. And then, by what a host of ties were these sainted women bound to the dwelling in which were centered all their joys and all their sorrows—all their full memories of the past, as all their slender hopes for the future. There was not a foot of ground in all that solitude, not a tree in the garden, not a pillar in the cloisters, and not a picture on the walls, but had a claim upon their memory—and, it might be, on their tears. There, had they prayed, and slept, and loved for half a century,—and all the life of these women was reckoned in those three words. There, too, awaited them, in the repose of the grave, those of the sisters who had gone before.

Towards the close of autumn 1709, and just about the hour when the nuns had risen for matins, strange sounds seemed to reach their ears, advancing in the direction of the abbey. The noise was like the dull and measured tread of a body of horsemen, mingled with the motion of wheels, as of many carriages. With a vague presentiment of coming evil, the sisters clung together, and were about to enter the chapel, when an old servitor of the abbey, breathless with speed, and blanched by fear, stood before them. He approached the abbess, to whom he spoke long in whispers. While listening to his narrative, the brow of the abbess retained its wonted serenity:—only, when turning towards the nuns, she raised her voice to address them, her words, though full of gentleness, and calm, betrayed the deep emotion that shook her within.

"My daughters!" she said, "follow me into the great hall, where Monseigneur, the lieutenant-general of police, waits to communicate an order from the king. We will render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's."

A deep terror fell upon the hearts of the nuns, but they moved onward. The day had, by this time, begun to dawn; and they could see that the inner courts were filled with detachments of French and Swiss guards. The abbey seemed metamorphosed

into a fortress. Trembling and bewildered, the sisters entered, with downcast eyes, the grand hall of the chapter. It had once been the most splendid, as it was the largest, in the convent; and was adorned with portraits of the abbesses, and with paintings by Philippe de Champagne. But since the ravages of time had become apparent on the disjointed window-frames and worm-eaten oak panels, it had been shut up, till a rude soldiery forced its doors, and drove thence the night-birds that had taken up their abode within. At the extremity of the chamber, on a raised platform—amid the glare of torches whose light fell on the pale faces of the abbesses, which had slept, for many a year, on their canvas couches and in their blackened frames—surrounded by an imposing military array—stood Monseigneur de Voyer d'Argenson. He made a sign to the nuns to be seated; and, unfolding a parchment, sealed with the arms of France,—"I am here," he said, "to execute a measure of severity. You have disobeyed the king, and he is not to be braved with impunity. Still, his majesty has remembered mercy. Hear the decree issued by the king in council." Then he read that fierce decree, dictated by the Jesuits, which expelled the nuns from their monastery, and ordered that, after their departure, the buildings should be rased to the ground, and their site surrendered to the plough. By the terms of this edict, the very grave was robbed of its right of sanctuary, and the bones buried in the cemetery were ordered to be disinterred. From the 29th day of October 1709, the famous community of Port-Royal-des-Champs was no more!

The reading of these latter directions was answered by a long deep groan; and then a silence, as of death, fell on the hall. It seemed the last sigh of the old abbey; and the blood curdled in the veins of D'Argenson himself. It was almost as if the nuns had passed, suddenly and at once, from life into death—so pale and inanimate was every face, and so motionless every frame. Between that audience of flesh and blood, seated in the worm-eaten stalls of the chapter, and that other audience in effigy depending from the cracked walls of the hall, there appeared no other difference than that which exists between painting and statuary. At length, a voice arose, as from the depth of a tomb—it was the abbess who spoke. "Monseigneur," she said, "I and my daughters are ready. When must these things be?" "On the instant," was the reply, "You are twenty-three nuns, and at the convent gate stand twenty-three carriages, which will convey you to twenty-three different monasteries, where you will end your days. You have an hour for preparations and farewells." So saying, D'Argenson abruptly departed.

"My children," said the abbess, with a voice which rose clear and distinct above all the sobbing, "follow me." The nuns obeyed mechanically—the result of monastic training—resumed their ranks, and issued from the grand hall. They traversed the courts, in procession, amid a crowd of soldiers who made way for them with respectful commiseration, until they reached the church. There, the sisters knelt down; and, the gates being closed, the abbess, with a voice yet full of majesty and power, gave forth the first verse of the 109th psalm, and the whole community took up the next, in chorus. The song, at first, was faint and faltering—shaken by anguish and stayed by tears; but, as the swelling basses of the organ rose to the vaulted roof, flooding the soul with its vague and mysterious melodies, the spirits of the nuns revived; and they found, for this once more, those inspired accents which are no longer sounds of this lower earth, but used to make the music of the first Christians, when their hymn of praise arose from amid the horrors of the burning pile. The hour had long since passed, and their last hymn still echoed through the cloisters, when D'Argenson, annoyed by the non-execution of his orders, directed that the doors should be forced.

We must not seek to paint the scene which followed. The satellites of D'Argenson sprang into the choir, forced the nuns from their stalls, and placed them in the carriages. The villagers from the neighbouring hamlets, who had assembled at the tidings of the work of destruction that was going on, knelt, weeping, on the path of the poor nuns, whom the soldiers were bearing from them. They strove among themselves for fragments of the veils that had been torn

from the sisters, in this impious struggle, and covered them with kisses, as the relics of martyred saints. At length, silence descended on the abbey. The next day, the work of demolition began, and the ancient monastery was levelled with the ground!

The Theory and Practice of Water-Colour Painting. By George Barret. Ackermann & Co.

A Practical Treatise on Drawing and on Painting in Water Colours, &c. By G. F. Phillips. Baily & Co.

The Science of Drawing. By Frank Howard. (Part I. Trees.) Pickering.

If the rising generation be not adepts in all arts and all sciences, it will not be for want of introductory treatises and systems—rules and discourses indeed, "easy," "popular," "theoretical," and "practical," follow one another in such rapid succession, that the only puzzle is which to select. In the art of oil painting, we have had, since Reynolds wrote, the lectures and treatises of Barry, Opie, Fuseli, Phillips, Haydon, and Burnet, and on painting in water-colours, "hints," and "arts," and "manners" from Fielding, Harding, Cox, and Prout: and now Mr. George Barret, Mr. G. F. Phillips, and Mr. Frank Howard have assumed the pen to explain their own practice and principles. The student of long standing may learn something from all their pages, and the mere beginner find the wisdom of experience to direct his hand and lessen his labour.

The Barrets, father and son, have now for near a century been favourably known to the public as painters of literal and poetic landscape in oil and water-colours. The younger Barret, indeed, was nursed in the lap of art, and his experience and success have given him a right to be heard with attention when on the subject of his own and his father's calling. All that is deducible to rule, every hint that observation can give to help others into the mechanical mysteries of water-colour painting, Mr. Barret tells in language at once simple and perspicuous. For us, it is enough to recommend the rules, and pass on to subjects of more general interest. The art of painting in water-colours with great success and beauty is of a very recent date:—

"Drawings during a long previous period," Mr. Barret writes, "were made simply with Indian-ink. After the outline, in some instances, had been carefully marked out with a pen, they were then slightly tinted with a few colours, and these were called washed or stained drawings. Smith, however, (called Warwick Smith,) who was patronized by the late Earl of Warwick, and sent by him to Italy to study, and also to make drawings for him, greatly improved upon this meagre style of colouring by first forwarding his subjects with a grey tint, composed of blue, red, and yellow, so far as to produce the general effect, having previously subdued the white paper from the horizon downwards, with a slight wash of the same tint. His drawings thus prepared, he proceeded to colour them with a degree of force that had never been attempted before, in a chaste style, as he possessed an excellent eye, and a strong feeling for the true and sober hues of nature. Turner, at a subsequent period, made some beautiful small drawings for the late Dr. Monro, nearly, I believe, in the same way; but he soon afterwards commenced with pure colours, upon the principle of painting, when the great superiority of his drawings, for richness of colour, depth of tone, and artist-like treatment, soon became apparent. Girtin, also, contemporary with Turner, made some very fine drawings upon Dutch cartridge paper, which were coloured and finished from nature, with a powerful feeling for breadth of effect, harmony of colour, and great force; but, unfortunately for the arts, he died at a premature age. This led the way to the great improvements made in water-colour painting of late years, and to the establishment of the Water Colour Society, now in the thirty-fifth year of its existence."

Some of our ablest artists have been over-fond of detailing the minutiae of their pictures, so as to give to all parts a reality and finish discernible only on the closest inspection.

"Such as those little confined scenes," says Mr. Barret, "painted by Jacob Ruysdaal with great truth, but evidently with no higher aim than to present an exact portrait of the spot before him. His works, however," Mr. Barret adds, "afford many good examples of the minor class of art; yet his colouring is not always agreeable, owing to the slaty tone of some of his skies, and the cold hues that generally pervade his works. But Hobbima was a more rigid imitator of little things than Ruysdaal. Every brick in a cottage is a portrait, and many objects in his pictures, even those at some distance from the foreground, appear as if seen through a telescope. It therefore seems to me that he represented things as he *knew them to be*, and not as they would be visible to the eye in certain situations in some degree remote from the spectator. This making out of small parts (erroneously termed finishing) interferes sadly with the general effect and repose of a picture."

Mr. Barret next proceeds to contrast the treatment of Ruysdaal and Hobbima with the practice of Gaspar Poussin, and after announcing his preference for Poussin over Claude, gives an account of the 'Embarkation of the Queen of Sheba,' by the latter, now in the National Gallery, which, having copied for the Society of Engravers, he is thoroughly acquainted with. Claude seems to have worked so as to defy the most minute and searching criticism:—

"As the details of this picture, with the surprising care with which they are completed, cannot very well be discovered in a general view by the unassisted eye, I examined through a magnifying glass every part of them, when I found that all the stones in the distant tower, which is a striking feature in the scene, were carefully marked out, and even the mouldings of the ship at anchor, to the left, were as carefully painted as if close to the eye. The nearer objects I need not describe, as their exquisite finish is visible enough. Notwithstanding all this making out of small parts, they are so subdued to the whole effect, that universal harmony and breadth of effect is wonderfully preserved, though I cannot but think that much valuable time was lost by this evidently tedious mode of proceeding, and I can only account for it by supposing that Claude was determined to paint what he knew to exist, and was aware that when his picture would be seen from a proper distance the completion of the details would then be imperceptible."

Mr. Phillips has written a very useful work, and Mr. Howard has turned his attention to the peculiar beauties of trees, a study too much neglected by artists; even Wilson and Gainsborough seldom painted trees with any attention to individual ramification and foliage, but gave their broad and distant features, dashed in with great vigour of touch. Now we have trees painted with care, and conveying, with minute detail, the general character and appearance of each. Mr. Howard's little work may be of assistance in making this excellent practice universal.

A Summer in Brittany. By T. A. Trollope.

[Second Notice.]

Nothing could be more welcome as a contrast to the horrible *cabaret* at Evran, where we left our tourists in Brittany—than the kitchen at St. Juvat, where we meet them again—the comforts of which are described by Mr. Trollope *con gusto*, nor less cleverly presented to the eye by the sketch of Mr. Hervieu, his travelling companion. The box bedstead of the Breton peasant, which makes such an important figure both in the pen and in the pencil etching, may be seen in the Scottish Highlands also, though not in the latter country garnished by a little *benitier* full of holy water, surmounted by a cross. The Breton peasant, whose character is

there was nothing the least worth going to see. Nevertheless, I at last obtained a reference to a tailor, who, though he lived in the town, worked for the peasants, and was in fact a country tailor. This, it must be understood, is totally a different profession from that of a town tailor. The dress of the towns is for the men, and for the women, with the exception of the coiffure, as like that of their superiors as they can make it; and the artist, whose highest ambition would be to imitate at an humble distance the 'mode de Paris,' would be utterly ignorant of the mysteries, still more abstruse than his own, of cutting, lining, trimming, and embroidering a peasant's garments, and, worse still, of discriminating the various differences of form and colour appropriate to his customers in different communes. Yet these are not all, and hardly the most important duties and accomplishments of the 'tailleur pour les campagnes'; nor those, perhaps, in which his rival of the town would be most utterly unable to compete with him. The genuine Bas-Breton tailor is the chronicler and poet of the village. Very often he is an improvisatore of no mean pretensions, and is ever a welcome guest at the cottages and farm-houses of the district. His work is for the most part done in the houses of his employers, where his board is the most important portion of his remuneration. He is generally hunch-backed or crippled in some way, a misfortune which, unfitting him for any more athletic employment, was the cause of his adopting a profession somewhat scorned by the peasants, though his usefulness and amusing talents make him a general favourite among the women. * * * It was to an eminent member of this profession that I was directed, as the person who was most likely to be able to give me all information about the tragedy. We had some little difficulty in finding him, but, when found, it was evident that he was the right man to apply to, for he let us see in a minute that he was perfectly au fait of the whole affair. The tragedy of the life and death of St. Helen was to be presented at Lancerre the next day, to begin at two o'clock precisely. It was to be commenced rather, for these tragedies are extremely long; and our informant explained to us that the 'Life and Death of St. Helen' would occupy six days in the representation; that the performers and audience would adjourn as soon as it grew dark, and begin again where they left off, at the same hour on the day but one after. * * * A little after twelve, therefore, on the morrow, we left Paimpol; and when we had walked some distance from the town, and had fairly got into the country among the villages, we overtook plenty of groups evidently bound on the same expedition as ourselves. These increased in number as we advanced; and, when about twenty minutes before two we approached the scene of action, the hollow lane, in which we were walking, became literally filled with the moving crowd. We therefore advanced but slowly, and it wanted only five minutes of the appointed time when we emerged from the lane, on a small open common adjoining the churchyard of the village of Lancerre. It was easy to see at once that this was to be the scene of the intended theatricals, and a spot better adapted to the purpose could not have been chosen. The ground, though all covered with turf, was considerably broken and uneven, so as to afford peculiar facilities to a large concourse of people, all anxious to have a perfect view of the same object. On the highest point of the ground, with its back against the gable end of a house adjoining the common, was the stage. Nine large carts had been arranged in close order, in three rows of three each, and on these a rude scaffolding of planks was supported. At the back of this were hung, on a rope sustained by poles, on either side, several sheets, so as to partition off a portion at the back of the stage, to serve as a green-room for the performers to retire to. This white background was ornamented with a few boughs of laurel, and bunches of wild flowers, and, somewhat less appropriately, perhaps, with two or three coloured prints, from the cottages of the neighbours, of Bonaparte, and the Virgin. Of the performers—though it was now past two o'clock, despite the promised punctuality of our friend, the tailor—there was yet no appearance. The crowd, however, seemed to be waiting with great patience, and everybody appeared to be in high good humour. All were busily engaged in securing the most advantageous places. One long row, chiefly

composed of women, occupied the top of the churchyard wall—a most desirable position, inasmuch as though seated at their ease, they were sufficiently raised to see over the heads of those who stood at the bottom of the wall. Some preferred seats on a bank which commanded a perfect view of the stage, but which must have been rather too far to hear well, to a nearer place, where it would have been necessary to stand. The greater part of the men stood in the immediate front of the scaffolding, gazing on the unoccupied stage, and waiting with imperturbable patience the appearance of the performers. At length, the shrill tones of the national instrument—the bagpipe—were heard approaching from a lane, which opened upon the common, and all eyes were immediately turned in that direction. We were, probably, the only persons on the ground, who were not aware that this betokened the arrival of the players. But we were not long left in our ignorance. For presently the bagpiper himself, followed by men bearing the banners belonging to the church, made their appearance upon the common. Behind these, in grave and solemn procession, and full theatrical costume, came the tragedians. The crowd immediately formed a lane for them to pass, and thus, with great dignity and decorum, they reached the scaffolding, and one after another mounted by a ladder to the stage. When they were all up, they marched thrice round the boards in the same order as before, with the bagpipe still playing at their head; then gravely bowed to the audience, who lifted their hats in return, and retired behind the sheets, to their green-room. The appearance of the corps dramatique was more preposterously absurd and strange than can well be conceived by those who have not seen them with the accompanying circumstances of air, manner, and expression, and all the surrounding objects, which gave such novelty and striking character to the scene. There was the pope with his triple crown, very ingeniously constructed of coloured paper, a black petticoat for a cassock, a shirt for a surplice, and a splendid cope, made of paper-hangings, and with the twofold cross in his hand. There were two kings with paper crowns, adorned with little waxen figures of saints, and arrayed in printed cotton robes, carrying in one hand a sword, and in the other a cross. Three or four wore the uniform of the national guard, and the remainder made any additions they could to their usual costume, which they thought would most contribute to the general effect. The female characters were all sustained by men, dressed as much like the usual costume of ladies as their knowledge and resources would permit. A very fine young man, six feet high by two and a half at least broad, was selected to personate St. Helen, who was dressed entirely in white, with a large tablecloth for a veil. There was one exception only to the general air of deep gravity and perfect seriousness which prevailed throughout. This was a buffoon, who was dressed in shreds, with a cap and bells, and a long pigtail, with a huge horn in his hand, which he blew from time to time. His part was to fill up the time between the acts with buffoonery and jests. He was regarded by the crowd as he walked in the procession, making faces and affecting to ridicule the tragedians, with a passing smile; but, for the most part, they were as grave as the performers. The performance commenced by a single actor coming from behind the curtain of sheets, and making a very long speech. It was in rhyme, and was delivered in a very distinct manner, with much but very unvaried action, and an extremely loud voice, that strongly marked the rhythm and cadences of the verse. He began at one corner of the front of the stage, and spoke a certain number of lines, then moved to the middle, and repeated a similar quantity, did the same at the other corner, and then returned to his original position, and so on. In this manner, he must have delivered, I should think, nearly two hundred verses. He then retired, and out came the buffoon. His fun consisted, of course, chiefly in absurd attitudes, in blowing his horn, in ribaldry, and sundry standing jests, which succeeded in producing shouts of laughter. A man, who stood by us, and who spoke French, explained some of them to us. One old acquaintance, as ancient as Hierocles, the Grecian Joe Miller, I was surprised to find in such company. The fool told us that he had got a very fine house, which he wished to sell, and produced a

brick as a specimen of it. But the most successful joke of all, which was repeated every time he came upon the stage, consisted in his assuming an air of the greatest terror, and effecting his escape in the most precipitate manner, when the graver actors returned upon the scene. The same remarks will apply to the delivery of all the other actors as to that of the first. They generally continued walking up and down the stage while speaking, and marched round it in procession at the conclusion of every scene. We saw St. Helen kneeling to the king of England, and the pope mediating; a sorceress preparing poison; a wife killing her husband; a marriage, a dance, and a feast. On one occasion, a group of four or five, constituting a sort of chorus, ranged themselves in a row at the back of the scene, and assented to every sentiment of the speaker by an action of the hand, and stamp of the foot, resembling the lunge of a fencer, which they made at the end of every verse. Once in the course of a speech, the name of Jesus occurred, at which every hat in the crowd was lifted. Thus it went on till dark, when the actors left the place as they had come, notice having been given that the play would be continued the next day but one."

We must add to these illustrations of a national character, which, for a thousand reasons, have so much interest for the English, a scene from one of the great pilgrimages to St. Jean du Doigt. The relic, the genuineness of which is contested by the Maltese, is said to be the finger with which "the Baptist pointed to our Saviour when he announced to him the multitude assembled on the banks of Jordan."

"After breakfast we set out to walk to St. Jean du Doigt by the road that the good Duchess Anne, as she is almost invariably called by the historians of the country, opened from Morlaix to that village, for the express accommodation of the pilgrims resorting thither. The Duchess was one of the Finger's most zealous worshippers, and presented to it the case in which it is kept, and sundry other valuable knick-knacks, which are still preserved in the church. Upon one occasion, when her Highness had a bad eye, she sent for the relic, and the priests did all they could to bring it. But scarcely had they got beyond the church door, when it broke away from them, and flew back to its place on the altar—thus plainly indicating that if the Duchess had occasion for its services, she must condescend to come to it, instead of sending for it. This she accordingly did, with much penitence and humility. We left Morlaix by the picturesque fauxbourg of Troudousten, which lines the side of the valley with its irregular collection of buildings; and then traversed the shady woods of Trefenteunio, and the deep valley of the Dourdu. Beyond this we crossed a wide plain of fertile soil, belonging to the rich parishes of Plouezoch and Plougasnou. As we advanced, we caught sight of the Chateau de Taureau, rising on its isolated rock from the midst of the sea. Many a legendary tale, and much of interesting history, connected with this chateau and the various prisoners who have at different times been inmates of its dungeons, might be told, if time and space permitted. Farther on we crossed the little stream of the Mesqueau, and soon after arrived at the object of our pilgrimage. All this time we had been journeying amid a crowd of all ages and sexes, who were bound to the same point, and which became denser as we approached the village. We made directly for the church, as the grand centre of interest; and, having reached the churchyard, found ourselves in the midst of a scene, which it is almost as difficult adequately to describe, as it is impossible ever to forget. The church is a large building, with a handsome tower, standing in the midst of an area, which is but little encumbered with grave-stones. This was thickly crowded with a collection of men, women, and children, more motley in appearance than can readily be conceived by any one who has not seen the never-ending variety of Breton costume. The churchyard was bounded on part of one side by a long straggling building, which had been turned into a cabaret for the occasion. The door and front of this house were on the side looking away from the church; but a window opening into the churchyard had been converted into a temporary door, for the more ready passage of the

pilgrims from one to the other of the two occupations, drinking and devotion, which, on a pilgrimage, as for the most part elsewhere, form the principal amusements of a Breton's life. In the parts of the inclosure farthest from the church were erected a quantity of booths, beneath which were exposed for sale innumerable specimens of all the various trumpery which forms the machinery of Romish devotion. Pictures and figures of saints, especially of St. John the Baptist, of every possible size, form, and sort; chaplets of various materials; bottles of water from holy fountains; crucifixes, crosses, and calvaries, &c., were the principal articles. Amid these, other stalls were devoted to the more mundane luxuries of nuts, rolls, figs, sausages, prunes, biscuits, apples, crêpe, &c. By the side of the pathway leading to the principal door of the church the dealers in wax and tallow candles had stationed themselves. The consumption of these, and the supply provided for it, were enormous. The thing that most struck me after the first glance at the various heterogeneous parts of this strange scene, was an equable and constant motion of that part of the crowd who were nearest to the church, around the walls of the building; and, on pressing forwards, I found an unceasing stream of pilgrims walking round the church, saying prayers, and telling their beads. Many performed this part of the ceremony on their bare knees. Just outside the moving circle thus formed, and constituting a sort of division between it and the rest of the crowd, were a row of mendicants, whose united appearance was something far more horrible than I have any hope of conveying any idea of to the reader. Let him combine every image that his imagination can conceive of hideous deformity and frightful mutilation; of loathsome filth, and squalid, vermin-breeding corruption; of festering wounds, and leprous, putrifying sores; and let him suppose all this exposed in the broad light of day, and arranged carefully and skilfully by the wretched creatures whose stock in trade this mass of horrors constitutes, so as to produce the utmost possible amount of loathsomeness and sickening disgust; and when he has done this to the extent of his imagination, I feel convinced that he will have but an imperfect idea of what met my eyes at St. Jean du Doigt. * * Each horrible object continued all the day in the position he had taken up, and, in many instances, in attitudes which it appeared scarcely possible to retain so long. One man lay on his back on the ground, while both his bare legs were raised high in air, and sustained in that position by crutches. Of course each studiously placed himself so as most to expose that particular affliction which qualified him to take his place among the sickening crew. All vociferated their appeals to the charity of the crowd incessantly, and most of them appeared to receive a great many alms from the pilgrims. Some gave a small coin to every one of the revolting circle. In many instances we observed change demanded by the giver, and produced readily by the miserable object of his charity. Many gave part of the provisions which they had brought with them in their wallets from their distant homes. One group of beggars particularly struck us, the more so that it could be looked on without so much disgust as almost all the others. It consisted of a woman and five infants. Many others had children horribly disfigured in various ways; but this woman seemed to rest her claim to charity solely on the number and dirtiness of herself and her offspring. For they did not appear to have anything else the matter with them. They were all five quite young; and it seemed scarcely likely that they were all her own children. They lay all together in a little straw, close to the path of the pilgrims, round the church, and, apparently, in imminent danger of being trodden under foot by the crowd. She stood by them, and begged, as it seemed, with more success than most of her competitors; for almost every one gave her either money or food. She had already an immense heap of bread lying beside her children; and she constantly gave change to those who wished to divide their bounty. The secret of her success must have been in her admirable acting. She spoke entirely in Breton, and the matter of her appeals, therefore, I could not judge of; but her manner was perfectly eloquent. She was a dark, handsome woman, with strongly marked and extremely expressive features; a deep, flashing black eye, a splendid set of teeth,

and a profusion of long, black, dishevelled hair. She stood bending forwards towards the objects of her supplications, in an attitude far from ungraceful, with one hand pointing down to her litter of children, and the other employed in a variety of supplicating gestures, which her speaking eye admirably seconded. There was a play, too, in her voice, and a variety in the cadences of her speech, very different from the ordinary monotonous whine of mendicity; and she urged her suit with a warmth and vehemence which would have appeared more like an urgent and sudden appeal to save her babes from some immediate and imminent danger, than the continued and unchanging burthen of professional beggary to any one who had not watched her, as we did, for many minutes. The novelty and strangeness of the scene around the church detained us long from entering it. Fresh pilgrims continued to arrive every instant, and joined themselves to the never-ceasing procession around the building, who came, as was evident from their costume, from various distant parts of the country. Grave, decorous peasants, in black, from the neighbourhood of Morlaix and St. Thégonec, were mixed with wild-looking, travel-stained figures from the hills. Here a group might be seen, whose white flannel jackets and violet-coloured breeches showed them to be from the neighbourhood of St. Pol de Leon; and there a blue cloak, with its short, falling cape, declared its wearer to have come from the western extremity of the northern coast. Koscovites were there, with their close, green jackets, white trousers, and red sashes; and inhabitants of the distant shores opposite to Brest, distinguishable by their glaring costume of red coats and breeches, and white waistcoats, adorned with crimson buttons. In the midst of all these, but keeping in a knot together, might be seen a group, perhaps more remarkable than any of the others. Their small, blue, cloth caps, very similar to those worn by the Greeks, their dingy woollen jackets, short loose linen breeches, and bare legs and feet, distinguished them sufficiently amid all the other varieties of costume. These were the men of Plouguerneau and Kerlouan, remote communes on the northern shore of the department. This district on the banks of the rivers Roudoulin and Aber-Vrach has the reputation of being the most uncivilized in Brittany. It forms an exception to the general remarks made in a former chapter on the country of the Léonais, and the character of the inhabitants is totally different from that of the Léonais in general. They are said to be a lawless and ferocious race, obtaining but a poor subsistence from their ill-cultivated soil, and willing to eke it out by less peaceful and less reputable means. And it must be confessed that their harsh and wild-looking features, bronzed sinewy limbs, and the free, vigorous manner in which they handle their 'penbas,' incline the imagination to give credit to the unfavourable reports which are spread concerning them. It is on the remote and inhospitable shores from which these men come, that the practice of pillaging the wrecks of the vessels so unfortunate as to be driven on that coast is said still to exist. It is of late years only that this most cruel species of robbery has ceased to be universally practised on all the coasts of Lower Brittany. It was suppressed with the utmost difficulty; for the peasants persisted in maintaining their right to what 'God and their Ocean' had given them. But in some points of the coasts the atrocity was carried to a much greater length. For if the storms and natural dangers of this rocky and tempestuous shore did not cause a sufficiency of wrecks to glut their cupidity, every means was had recourse to, which the ingenuity of the inhabitants and their knowledge of the localities could dictate, to entice vessels to their destruction on this iron-bound coast by false signals and treacherous illusions. One very successful mode of perpetrating this abomination was to fix a lantern in a tempestuous night to the horn of a bullock, tie his head down to his knee, and so turn him out upon the beach, or the downs above it. The motion of the light, up and down, as the animal walked about thus tied, resembled very closely that of a light on board a vessel tossed by the sea, and thus served fearfully well to delude ships into the belief that the land was distant, when, in fact, they were close upon it. * * A lady, whom we travelled with in a diligence, said that she knew a priest who told her that he had done all he could to

prevent the practice of wrecking in his parish, or at least to moderate the horrors of it, with very little success. He had been compelled, he said, by his parishioners to pray for wrecks; and, when they had occurred, he had run down among the crowd to the beach, crying out, (in Breton, of course, though the words were repeated to us in French) 'Pillez donc, mes amis! Pillez! mais ne tuez pas!' If this were true, and it is difficult to find any reason for supposing it to be otherwise, these deeds must have been perpetrated at no very distant time. * * Each freshly arrived party, as they entered the churchyard, fell into the ranks, and, muttering as they went, commenced the tour of the church; and having performed that, some more, some fewer times, proceeded next into the interior, and struggled onwards through the crowd towards the altar. * * The crowding, pushing, struggling, and jostling, at the entrance to the passage in front of the altar was tremendous. Here, high above the heads of the undulating crowd, mounted on a level with the top of the altar-rails, was a beadle, with a good stout cane in his hand, with which he was laying about him vigorously; whacking the most violent and impatient of the crowds over their heads and shoulders: much in the same manner that a Smithfield drover regulates the motions of an irritated and over-driven herd of bullocks. We remained near the altar for some time. But there was nothing more to see than we had seen. The same thing continued without the slightest variation. Fresh comers continually thronged to the door of the passage, and supplied the places of those who kept streaming from the other end, as fast as the priest could touch both their eyes with the sacred relic. And this continued nearly the whole day."

This picture has almost sufficient force and colour to be hung up as a companion to the celebrated camp-meeting scene in 'The Domestic Manners of the Americans,' with the superior merit of not bearing any signs of its having been exaggerated to suit a purpose. But enough of these details, which, indeed, may possibly have given a certain monotony to this article. If such be the case, our notices and extracts but reflect the pervading strength and weakness of Mr. Trollope's book. It is somewhat deficient in sketches of *chouannerie*—in any gatherings with respect to the singular war time when the Breton character asserted itself so signally—it is superficial in all that concerns the household and field life of the peasants. But as a picturesque collection of legendary sketches, pleasantly varied with personal narrative, it ought to allure many who are capable of roughing it, to wander no further from home this autumn than among the "bragon-bras" of the honest, grave, melancholy, and superstitious peasants of Brittany.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Stephen Dugard, by the author of 'The Five Knights of St. Albans': 3 vols.—The author of 'The Five Knights of St. Albans,' long before the world, if we mistake not, as a political writer, though under the editorial veil, had previously to the publication of his romance, established for himself some reputation as a writer of agreeable fictions, by a clever series of papers which appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine*, under the general title of 'First and Last.' Of the reputation so acquired, the subsequent publication had the benefit—a portion of the merit belonging to the tales being carried forward to the account of that absurd and extravagant attempt at the revival of an extravagant and exploded school. If there be anything reasonable in this system of account current with the critical public, it follows as a compensating part of that system, that the falling off in the romance should be an item in the reckoning against the volumes before us, and the faults of 'The Five Knights' be reflected on 'Stephen Dugard.' Stephen Dugard, however, has faults enough of his own, to make us the less severe in exacting this strict balance. The book may very well stand on its own demerits. If the previous publication of the writer was a wild *refinement* of the worn-out horrors of the Ratcliffe school of romance, the present is a careful restoration

of the pale sentimentalities and industrious platitudes which distinguished the novel of the Minerva Press. Its characters and descriptions are of the kind best described as "most forcibly feeble;" and of plot, so far as that word implies merely a pivot round which the one and the other may be made to revolve, there is as little as could serve the purpose—so far as it includes art and construction, there is none at all; and the incidents are so successfully kept down below proof, that had the author rested there, nor gone in search of an intoxicating ingredient foreign to the general nature of his work, the whole affair might have been characterized to the critic's contentment and the reader's apprehension, by the expressive term *namby-pamby*. The author of 'The Five Knights,' however, could not so far tone down his taste to the level of the Anna-Marias of literature as to dispense with excitement altogether; and the strong material which he used for his former infusion having failed to produce the effects anticipated, he has gone into the market, on the present occasion, for a drug more pernicious still—to say nothing of its being exceedingly nauseous. Having achieved his mixture, after the approved and harmless fashion of the Minerva school, as it was understood by the cocknies of the past century, he proceeds to borrow a stimulating agent from the school patronized by the cocknies of the present day. In a word, his volumes are seasoned out of their insipidity by the plentiful introduction, with all its most disgusting characters, of that thieves' literature which is the easy purchase of popularity, and a reproach alike to writers and critics in the present day. But the taint shows even fouler in these volumes than elsewhere,—because stripped of all its meanings and uses. It has here nothing characteristic—is employed neither as a picture of manners, an historical record, nor a ground of philosophical deduction. The author presumes that he is catering to that degraded taste, which, we trust, is now pretty well sated, by drawing such 'faultry monsters as the world ne'er saw,' and revelling in descriptions of the orgies of crime, which he mistakes for exhibitions of power. If this author must have strong drinks, we counsel him to return again to the spirits with which he mixed them in 'The Five Knights of St. Albans.' On the present occasion, we hope and believe he has overshot his market; and such influence as he can contribute towards making this species of fetid literature a drug there, shall at no time be wanting.

Memoir of the Rev. Henry Möwes, &c. &c., with an introduction, by the Rev. J. Davies.—There is a pervading spirit in the religious literature of Germany, which makes it welcome to us, even when we object to the peculiar creeds and tenets proposed for illustration: its remarkable freedom from that bitterness by which temper, rather than zeal, is evidenced, and by which so many of our own countless biographies and scriptural novels are characterized. This life of Möwes, if less interesting than some of its predecessors, contains the record of a christian man's progress and opinions, written in a catholic and amiable spirit; and we commend it to all such as love, upon entering the Temple, to find it free from barterers and money-changers,—or, to speak less metaphorically, as desire when contemplating spiritual things to escape from the miserable bickerings of human prejudice and human infirmity. No good man, of whatever sect or denomination, could rise from the book without having found repose, if not strength, in its pages.

Amusement in High Life.—The slim volume under notice, a country-house Decameron, hardly reaches the level of pathos or sprightliness implied in the word "amusing."—Of the same ephemeral family is a still smaller tome, *Poems, Tales, and Essays*, by S. C. Hooley, but its strain is graver and more contemplative; and we are disposed to regard it with greater favour, from being informed by the author that it has "been the cheerful occupation of hours snatched from toil."

Key and its Gardens, by F. Scheer, Esq.—A pleasant popular account of this suburban village, and its attractions, the perusal of which has impressed us with a conviction that the Gardens maintained there by the country are of little public benefit; and that it would be well if government would take into consideration how best to make them more generally

available for the instruction and recreation of the people. There was a report current lately, that they were to be broken up, and Mr. Scheer, who is a resident in the neighbourhood, assumes that had this intention been persisted in there would have been "a great and universal excitement!"—we doubt this—we doubt whether five out of five hundred of our readers ever set a foot in these gardens. For many years the Botanic Garden was maintained for the sole benefit of the aristocratic few connected with the court, and the pleasure grounds were appropriated to the use of the Duke of Cumberland, who fed his horses there. Of late, a more liberal spirit has prevailed; but assuredly if these gardens are to be kept up at the public cost, there ought to be "a great and universal excitement," unless means are forthwith taken to turn them to profitable and public uses.

Cavendish's Debates of the House of Commons, from 1768 to 1774, now first published, by J. Wright: Part I.—The first part of a work of great value and interest, as filling up an important lacuna in the details of Parliamentary History. Many of our readers are aware that, during the Parliament which assembled between the years 1768 and 1774, strangers were excluded from the gallery of the House of Commons; and the public were thereby deprived of many of those splendid orations of Burke, to which the traditions of the House ascribe such marvellous power, and many other speeches of the parliamentary leaders of that day, illustrating the feelings and opinions that preceded the war of the American revolution, and the men and measures that drew forth the literary stiletto of Junius. It was known, however, that, during the whole of this time, Sir Henry Cavendish had taken copious short-hand notes of the debates; but what had become of these notes was a mystery as great as their recovery was a desideratum. It is only recently that they have been found, amongst the Egerton manuscripts, by the present editor, who has prefaced the debates, themselves, by a short memoir of the member to whose fortunate industry the national historian is indebted for this important link in the chain of documentary evidence.

Erotopuseus, a Serio-Comic Poem, in four scenes, by Timotheus Pikromel, Esq.—seems to us neither serious nor comic, but a careful collection of platitudes.

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THE POET'S SUMMONS EARTHWARD.

"RETURN—return!"—Thus ever in mine ear
There sounds a voice which calls me to the grave:
"Thou unto whom the very skies drew near,
To whom the seas were opened as one wave!
Oh! thou that to the beautiful wert born,
To whom the keys of Heaven were given in trust,
With all thy gifts and powers—return—return;
Back to the grosser earth—back, back to dust!"

Not as the voice that in the old time, borne
Unto the patriarch o'er a wrecked world driven,
Told of green spots unto the ocean-worm,
To me that summons came—though winged from Heaven.
Reproach too deep was in that earthward call;
How had I slumbered o'er my mind's decay,
Who, crowned with stars, had suffered them to fall,
And woke not till my glory passed away!

Too late I feel how every holy thought
Sits, throned for empire, in the poet's soul,
And waits but till by him to beauty wrought,
To sway its gentle sceptre of control!—
Yet oh! not all too late, if even in death
One heaven-born strain might make its source
adored;
Oh! let that strain ascend in one full breath,
And in that breath, Great God, my soul be
poured!

ELEANORA LOUISA MONTAGU.

CARTES CATALANES.

[A letter on this subject, written by Mr. Holmes, and addressed to the Secretary of the Geographical Society, was read at the meeting of the members on the 16th of April (*ante*, p. 316). M. D'Avezac has since published some observations on that letter, to which the following is Mr. Holmes's reply.]

I was not made aware until several days after its publication, on the 16th instant, that M. D'Avezac had put forth a letter, which contained some observations in reply to my doubts respecting the early date attributed to the Cartes Catalanes existing in the Bibliothèque du Roi. Before I enter upon the subject of these charts, I wish to make one observation of a personal nature, and which is due to M. D'Avezac, of the general tone of whose letter I have no reason to complain. M. D'Avezac appears to be hurt that I had not alluded to him by name, as having been the first to assign to these charts what he thinks their true date—viz. the year 1375, the Baron Walckenaer, MM. Malte-Brun, Bowdich, and Jomard, having attributed to them the much earlier date of 1346. The Secretary of the Geographical Society, to whom my letter was addressed, can bear witness that the omission was not intentional, and that it did not arise from any want of courtesy towards M. D'Avezac, but from the mere fact that I was not cognizant of his having in any way laid claim to the merit of first attributing the date of 1375 to the charts, since I had not read his paper in the *Bulletin* of September 1832. He will therefore, I hope, receive this explanation in the friendly spirit in which I tender it: less is not due to his character and reputation. I think that he has more reason to complain of his own countrymen, MM. Buchon, Huot, and Paulin-Paris. I have also never been able to see the Memoirs of MM. Buchon and Tastu, which M. D'Avezac mentions as printed, but not published, in 1837, and reprinted in 1839. It is to the Secretary of the Geographical Society that I am indebted for a reference to M. Tastu's letters to M. D'Avezac, to which I may have occasion to refer in the following few remarks upon M. D'Avezac's letter.

M. D'Avezac so frankly admits the errors which I pointed out in the account of M. Buchon, which had so greatly misled MM. Huot and Paulin-Paris, that it would be useless to dwell any longer upon them. I must, however, except against treating these errors as accidental to the subject, or as easily to be given up as of no moment, whereas they formed the staple of the argument of MM. Buchon, &c., and were the principal foundation upon which rested their hypothesis—the early date of 1375 for the charts in question. M. D'Avezac having abandoned these, takes up a fresh position, retaining but one part of the original defence; bringing forward a new line of three points, upon which he rests, and upon which I will shortly remark in turn.

1. He says:—"The writing is of the fourteenth century.... And Mr. Holmes, attached as he is to the MS. department of the British Museum, ought to be sufficiently acquainted with MSS. to know that it is enough to refer him to an attentive examination of M. Buchon's *fac-simile*; which, though imperfect, presents to an experienced eye characteristics that cannot be mistaken." That M. Buchon's *fac-simile* is imperfect there can be no doubt. M. Tastu allows that by M. Buchon "the atlas has been badly enough read, and but badly understood.".... And, "that the *fac-simile* only tends to increase the difficulty of reading it." I thought that I had sufficiently guarded myself against being misunderstood, when I said, that "it is at all times difficult to judge of the age of a MS. from a mere outline *fac-simile*, but my opinion of the writing is that about 1440 is the real date." To this opinion, notwithstanding what M. D'Avezac says that I ought to know, he must allow me, in the absence of better evidence, still to adhere.

2. The second point insisted upon by M. D'Avezac is, "that the document itself existed in the library of Charles V. of France," who died in 1380, "as is proved by the Catalogue of Gilles Mallet, his librarian." This fact, if proved, would render all argument futile; and it appears to me somewhat extraordinary, that after so much has been said and so much has been written respecting these charts,—when such authors as the Baron Walckenaer, Bowdich, Malte Brun, and Jomard, have been found in error on this very point of date, and corrected by

other authors, also of note, MM. D'Avezac, Huot, Buchon, and Paulin-Paris,—and when the right of priority as to this correction is made matter of claim,—that this fact should now be brought forward for the first time, and, as it were, at the eleventh hour! Had M. D'Avezac simply asserted it, I should have supposed that some discovery had been recently made,—that some certain indication of Charles V.'s possession of the MS. had come to light, and I should have confessed my doubts to be groundless. But when I find that this assertion rests upon the mere circumstance that a set of sea charts belonged to Charles V., (and I have a clear right to assume from M. D'Avezac's expressions that this is *all* his proof,) I more than doubt the fact. If the library of Charles V. formed part of the present Bibliothèque du Roi, and if a MS. now existing there appeared to agree with the description of a MS. in the inventory of that king's library, there might be some ground for assuming that they were one and the same. But what is the fact? why, that the library of Charles V. was partly brought to England by the Regent Duke of Bedford, and partly dispersed; and I will venture to appeal to all the officers of the Bibliothèque du Roi, whether the mention of any MS. in the Inventory of Gilles Mallet does not tend to prove the absence from, rather than the presence of it in the Bibliothèque du Roi. M. Van Praet mentions some which have been acquired at a later period. If this Atlas be one of those so acquired, it is remarkable that it should not have been known as such by M. Paulin-Paris, and mentioned by him, one of whose aims has been to ascertain the original possessors of the MSS. mentioned in his work, and who says of these charts, that they have been in the Bibliothèque du Roi from time immemorial. M. Paulin-Paris fills, I believe, in the Bibliothèque du Roi a post precisely analogous to that which I have the honour to hold here, and must have ample opportunities of knowing the history of the MSS. His work, and that of M. Van Praet, appeared in the same year. The only charts mentioned as belonging to Charles V. are the following, and it will be seen at a glance how little proof there is of their identity with the Cartes Catalanes:—

"Une carte de mer en tableaux, faite par manière de unes tables peintes et ystorice, figurée et escripte, et fermant à iiii fmoers."

Why, even if the Cartes Catalanes have four clasps to their cover, I want other proof of their identity with the MS. of Charles V. I may with equal right say, that they are the chart mentioned in somewhat similar terms in the inventory of the library of John Duke of Berry.

3. The third proof brought forward by M. D'Avezac is one to which I had before alluded, viz.—that the table for finding Easter, &c. began in 1375. He says, "that the terms themselves in which this calculation is made allow of no hesitation on the subject; and Mr. Holmes, before entering upon a discussion, very curious beyond a doubt, but not well founded, ought to have well weighed these terms printed in the book of M. Paulin-Paris, which he has quoted and criticized." Now I had done so, but M. Paulin-Paris disarms all criticism on this point, by frankly confessing that it would be difficult for him to translate well the passage, and even that he would not guarantee its perfect correctness. On a comparison of M. Paulin-Paris's transcript with M. Buchon's *fac-simile*, I find not only considerable difference between them, but also that by mistake M. Paulin-Paris omits one entire line of the inscription, amounting to about one-seventh of the whole.

M. D'Avezac lays great stress on the expression *en aquest ayn de mccccxxv*, which he kindly translates for me into Latin and English; and says that "in another passage, where he (the compiler of the table) speaks of the following year, he says, *aquel ayn de mccccxxvi*." Now not only is there no such passage as the last in M. Paulin-Paris, but there is not even in the original,—at least I cannot find it in M. Buchon's *fac-simile*. It is true that there are the words *en aquel ayn*, but no year is mentioned; and it is quite clear that they refer to 1375, the year before mentioned, and not to 1376: and that they afford the very opposite conclusion to that arrived at by M. D'Avezac. M. D'Avezac has quoted words which are in the MS., and in M. Paulin-Paris's transcript, and which, taken by themselves, appear to prove his point: he has also quoted words which are

not in either, and which, if they were, would not prove his point: but he has not quoted the words which are the key to the true meaning of the whole passage; viz.—the first general or indefinite mention of the year, thus: *en l'ayn de mccccxxv*; shortly after which comes the expression on which he lays so much stress, *en aquest ayn de mccccxxv* (alluding to the first mention of it); and again, shortly after, *en aquel ayn*; not 1376, as he erroneously quotes the passage, but meaning the same year, 1375. Now if any one writing in 1840 were to say in the year 1800, and in a sentence or two afterwards, in this year 1800, and almost in the following sentence, in that year, meaning 1800, could it be argued conclusively that the writer used his pen in 1800, when circumstances were mentioned by him which were believed not to have occurred until long after 1800?

I have now before me a set of charts, drawn by Grazioso Benincasa, and dated in 1468, in which there is a table of new moons from 1451 to 1470, and a table to find Easter day from 1432 to 1532.

In order that others may judge of this point, I will give the passage alluded to by M. D'Avezac at length, as I read it from M. Buchon's *fac-simile* of the MS., which M. Tastu says,—"a été assez mal lu et passablement mal compris: le *fac-simile* de M. Buchon ne peut à l'avenir guère servir qu'à multiplier les difficultés pour pouvoir le lire."

"Aquesta roda uos mostra lauro numero tots temps et quantes setmanes de carnali et a quants uos pasqua de may: d' abril et cincogema en quants jorns de mays o de juny sara et ayxi hi sapiatz que en layn de mccccxxv corra lauro numero en viij adonchs uogits la figura fins sia la ma esquerra hon hascrit lauro numero andret de nombre de viij quij [corra?] en aquest ayn de mccccxxv et a la hon uos mostra l'altra ma fon setmanes de carnali et a la hon uos mostra gaspa de la spassa uos mostra pasqua et a la hon toca la capula del cap uos mostra cincogema per aquel ayn et laltre ayn lexaem, lo nombre de viij o uogits la figura en ix et fins a xix ayns tornarets en I et ayxi per tots tems lo nombre negre mostra abril et lo uermel a mostra may."

This will be found to differ materially from M. Paulin-Paris's transcript, and also to contain some gross mistakes, which I invite M. D'Avezac to correct from the original MS.

M. D'Avezac supposes me to be under some illusion with regard to the Portuguese discoverers. I am not aware of being so. The question is one of historical importance, as much depends on the real date of these charts. It has been treated as of importance by those who have succeeded in abstracting nearly thirty years from the date assigned to the charts by writers of great note, and I think it worth consideration whether some fifty or sixty years more ought not to be subtracted from the amended date. If my doubts can be resolved, I shall be very happy to acknowledge my error; at present I am of the opinion which I first expressed. I am, &c.

British Museum,
May 26, 1840.

JOHN HOLMES.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE veteran Dowton, one of the last of the race of genuine English comedians, whom necessity and the claims of a large family have compelled to linger on the stage beyond the period when age and infirmities suggested his retirement, takes a parting benefit at Her Majesty's Theatre, on Monday; when he will bid farewell to the profession of which for fifty years he has been a distinguished ornament, in his favourite character of *Sir Robert Bramble* in 'The Poor Gentleman.' A host of his brethren will lend their co-operation to the entertainments of the evening, including Miss Kelly, Miss E. Tree, Mrs. Glover, Messrs. Faren, Harley, Meadows and Bartley; Messrs. Grisi and Dorus-Gras also kindly give their aid. Numerous as will be the attendance on the occasion, the product of the benefit alone not sufficing to provide a fund adequate to secure a comfortable provision for the remaining years of 'the Father of the British Stage,' his friends and admirers have set on foot a subscription, under the patronage of many noble and eminent names, which it is hoped will realize the desired amount.

An appeal has also been made to the public on behalf of the destitute widow, daughter, and infant child of Mr. Pitts, the sculptor, whose melancholy fate we

recorded some weeks ago. The case has many claims upon the public; and Sir Francis Chantrey and Mr. Jones, the painter, are interesting themselves in promoting its success; while Messrs. Storr & Mortimer, of Bond Street, and Sir Claude Scott & Co., of Cavendish Square, have undertaken to receive subscriptions. The story of poor Pitts is indeed a sad one; and we trust that some portion of that patronage which worth and genius failed to secure for the living artist, will find its way to his bereaved family, in answer to this final appeal from the grave.

We ought not perhaps to let pass, without record, the death of the Countess Dowager of Cork. According to the report in the daily papers, she was born on the 21st of May, 1746, and had, therefore, entered her ninety-fifth year a few days before her death. Moore and the younger D'Israeli, as our readers may remember, have shadowed forth some traits of her character in 'The Twopenny Post Bag,' and in 'Henrietta Temple'; but she will be best known to the public generally as the last survivor of the embalmed in Boswell. Other ladies, indeed, celebrated in that work, outlived their male contemporaries. Crabbe and Lord Stowell were the last of the men, and Lady Chambers (Miss Wilton), Madame D'Arblay, and the Countess of Cork, all survived them.

With the opening of the Exhibitions, the novelties in Art have ceased, yet there are promises, at this late season, deserving notice. The Committee of the Goodall Testimonial have fixed on Sir Francis Chantrey to make a statue of the late Provost of Eton, for the Ante-Chapel of Eton College; and the Committee of the West-End Wellington Memorial (Mr. Wyatt's) advertise in the public papers that the work is proceeding in the most satisfactory way, and that there is every likelihood that it will be ready for erection in two years from this time—by the 16th of June, 1842. Prince Albert, it is confidently said, has canvas, enamel, palette, and brush at the palace in Piccadilly, and is busy with an historical picture, with sitters and with models. If this be true, and the picture has merit, will the Academicians elect him of their body? There is room for three R.A.'s and six A.R.'s at this moment: or will the Queen exercise her prerogative, as her grandfather did with Sir Thomas Lawrence, and thrust him among the *esquires* without their sanction, and without a vacancy?

The second meeting of the *svants* of Italy is to take place at Turin, on the 15th, and continue till the 30th of September next—as communicated to the learned bodies of Europe by its President and Secretary, the Count di Saluzzo, and M. Gené. From the same city (Turin) we have it stated, that Signor Bertelli, a rich landed proprietor in the environs of Alexandria, in Piedmont, has discovered a method by which he can make silk-worms spin red or blue cocoons, at his pleasure; so that the silk thus obtained is dyed naturally with one or the other of these colours, not only of surpassing beauty, but indestructible. Signor Bertelli keeps his discovery a secret; but it is supposed to consist in some particular preparation of the mulberry leaves on which he feeds his worms.

Russian science is busy recruiting amongst the professors of Germany. Dr. Blasius, the Professor of Natural History at the Caroline College in Brunswick, has been appointed by the Russian government to conduct a scientific journey through the Asiatic possessions of that empire; and the celebrated Professor of Astronomy in Berlin, Madler, is gone to Dorpat, to fill the chair of Professor Struve, removed to St. Petersburg. While recording the movements of learned Germans, we may mention the journey of one of her most profound archaeologists, M. O. Müller, of Göttingen, into Greece, in company of M. Schoell, of Berlin, from which results of great interest are expected; and the intention of Dr. Melly, an Austrian archaeologist, to publish drawings of the most remarkable frescoes found by him in the ruins of the ancient Tarquinia at Cornetto. In connexion with the same subject, we may state, that letters from Rome speak of a new volume of the "Annals" as in course of publication.

A highly interesting discovery has been announced by the Danish geologist, Dr. Lund, to the Northern Archaeological Society, as made by him, while excavating in the neighbourhood of Bahia, in Brazil. This discovery began with the fragment of a flag-stone,

covered with engraved Runic characters, but greatly injured. Having succeeded in deciphering several words, which he recognized as belonging to the Icelandic tongue, he extended his researches, and soon came upon the foundations of houses in hewn stone, bearing a strong architectural resemblance to the ruins existing in the northern parts of Norway, in Iceland, and in Greenland. Thus encouraged, he went resolutely on, and at length, after several days' digging, found the Scandinavian God of Thunder, Thor, with all his attributes—the hammer, gauntlets, and magic girdle. The Society has commissioned Prof. Rafn, who first established, in an authentic manner, the existence of ancient relations between Iceland and Northern America, anterior to the discovery of that part of the world by Columbus) to report on the subject of Dr. Lund's letter, and to publish his report, with a view to direct the attention of the learned to this very interesting discovery, which would seem to prove, that the ancients of the North had not only extended their maritime voyages to Southern America, but even formed permanent establishments in that country.

There has, of late, been scarcely a meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in which a portion of its proceedings has not been the announcement of some new vacancy, or the election of some candidate to fill the chair of the dead. The latest of these record the loss of General Rogniat, an Associate of the Academy, and that of M. Brochant de Villiers, member of the Mineralogical Section, and Inspector-General of Mines. At the meeting of the 11th ult., after having chosen as President M. Poncelet, in the room of the late M. Poisson, the members proceeded to the nomination of a Foreign Associate, in the place of the deceased astronomer Olbers. The list of candidates again included the British names of Brewster, Faraday, and Herschel, with the addition of Sir Astley Cooper. The candidate elected was M. Bessel. At the last sitting the Academy announced as the subject of its prize of eloquence for 1842, 'The Eulogy of Pascal'; and the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences has proposed, for the quinquennial prize of 5,000 fr. (200*l.*) founded by M. Beaujour, the following question:—"What are the most useful practical applications that can be made of the principle of private and voluntary association to the relief of wretchedness?"

The Gobert prizes, for the best works on French history, which we mentioned some weeks ago, have been adjudged as follows:—The great prize, nine-tenths of the whole sum assigned for the purpose, and consisting of an annuity of 9,000 francs (360*l.* sterling), has been decreed to M. Augustin Thierry, for his new work, entitled, 'Récits Mérovingiens, précédés de Considérations sur l'Histoire de France'; and the remaining prize, of 1,000 francs a year, has been drawn by M. Bazin, as the author of a 'Histoire de Louis XII.' These two annuities, according to the terms of the grant which creates them, will be respectively enjoyed by the successful competitors for the present year, until some new production in the same class shall excel either of the works above mentioned, and transfer the premium in respect of it to new hands;—and with this view, the learned body in question is each year to make an examination of all historical works submitted to it as claimants for the prizes. This establishment of a sort of championship in historical writing is a novelty in literature, not altogether unobjectionable, we think, as a feature of its prize arrangements; but the reward of merit should not be liable to resumption for a cause which implies no diminution of the merit itself. It can be only in one of those extremely rare cases, which produce the standard and exceptional works of a nation's literature, that any author shall be able to maintain it, for any length of time, against the crowd of intellectual athletes whom year after year will bring up against him;—and, to say nothing of the very serious diminution of income which the abstraction of such a premium will occasion, after some years of its enjoyment, this passing of the "silver oar" from hand to hand is likely to create, amongst its other inconveniences, those jealousies and heartburnings which its judicious patrons will ever desire to see shut out from the field of literature. Against the abstract principle of this prize, no exception can be taken. It is an ingenious mode of excluding time from the conditions of the question, making each work contend

against all the works of its class (present and to come), and leaving the crown for ever with the best,—giving, in the meantime, a beneficial usufruct to the authors of other works of excellence, which are likely always to hold their place in the first rank. Still, as a practical measure, it has the inconveniences to which we have alluded; and M. Thierry or M. Bazin would feel it a very different thing to miss a prize for which they had contended in secrecy, from having that prize notoriously taken out of their pockets, to be publicly handed over "to the more worthy."

Our tidings from the same metropolis speak, too, of the inauguration, by the administrative council of the *Sourds-Muets*, of the bust of the Abbé de l'Épée, in conformity with those instructions of the Minister of the Interior to which we have already referred; and mention that the town of Pithiviers, the birth-place of M. Poisson, the late President of the Academy, is about to erect a monument to the memory of its illustrious son.

The triennial Musical Festival held at Aix-la-Chapelle, and called by the good people of that town the *Concert Monstre*, from the great number of musicians engaged, was fixed to commence on the 7th of this month. Spohr is expected to assist, and all the great professors from the different parts of Germany will, it is supposed, be present. The 31st of May being the anniversary of the death of Haydn, was also to be solemnly kept at Vienna by the Society of the Friends of Music in the Austrian States: their celebration taking the form of a grand performance of Cherubini's 'Requiem,' by an orchestra of eight hundred artists and *dilettanti*.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PAUL MALL.

The GALLERY, with a Selection of PICTURES by ANCIENT MASTERS, of the Italian, Spanish, Flemish, Dutch, and English Schools, including ONE ROOM OF THE WORKS of the late WM. HILTON, Esq., R. Keeper of the Royal Academy, will be OPENED on MONDAY NEXT, the 8th instant, and continue open daily from 10 in the Morning till 6 in the Evening.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 1*s.*

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS, is NOW OPEN, at their GALLERY, 53, PAUL MALL WEST, (adjoining the British Institution), from 9 o'clock till Dusk.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.*

JAMES FAHEY, Hon. Sec.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

The Two Pictures now exhibiting represent the CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA in Westminster Abbey, and the Interior of the CHURCH of SANTA CROCE, at Florence, with all the effects of Light and Shade, from Noon till Midnight. Open from 10 till 5.

N.B.—The Picture of SANTA CROCE will shortly be removed, and replaced by a subject of great interest.

COLOSSEUM, REGENT'S PARK.

OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Six, without extra charge. PHILIPPS NEW PICTURE OF THE ANGLO-CHINESE FLEET, at MALACCA, Selection of Music by Mr. Warn, the celebrated Organist of the Temple, on Myer's grand double Oboe, between the hours of two and four. The celebrated Trombones of the London, and the Swiss Cottage, Conservatories, Morning Picture of the Lake of the Four Cantons. Admission, 1*s.*; Family Boxes, 2*s.*; and choice Collection of Naval and other Models. Admission, 1*s.*

CONTINENTAL DAGUERRÉOTYPES OF THE FIRST CLASS.—100 beautiful VIEWS taken in GREECE, ITALY, and FRANCE, recently introduced into this Country by Messrs. Claudet & Houghton, licensees of the patentees; for the Exhibition and Sale of these Pictures a room is exclusively appropriated.—Hall's Patent Hydraulic Lift, or Water Elevator, at work, in a case 20 feet high, for raising a large body of water from any depth without the expense of pumps.—Coining Press, showing the process of the Royal Mint; by the means of this Machinery seventy Medals are struck off in one minute before the visitors.—The above are novelties added to the Exhibition, which still contains all the Novelties of last Easter Week, as seen by so many thousands of visitors since that period of six weeks.

There is continued the Chromatic Fire Cloud—various Models and Engines in motion—Power and Jacquard Looms at work, by one of which beautiful specimens of Spun Glass, and Silk are woven (Messrs. Williams and Sowerby patentees).—Mr. Green's Balloon, with the Guide Apparatus—Garnier's and Cocking's Parachutes illustrated.—Electrotypy by Livingstone and Dyer.—Microscope magnifying Pictures 3,000 times.—Magnetic and Electrical Experiments.—Mr. Snow Harris's Lightning Conductor illustrated.—Colonel Pasley's method of Blowing up the Royal George.—A popular Lecture, by Mr. Maucham, at two o'clock.—Open from 10 o'clock in the Morning. Admission to the whole, 1*s.* for the Whitsun week.—Polytechnic Institution, 30, Regent-street.

GRAND FASHIONABLE PALACE OF NECROMANCY (late St. James's Bazaar, St. James's-street).—Elegance, Fashion, and Grandeur, intellectually improved view of the World of Magic.—The Great WIZARD of the NORTH respectfully informs the Nobility and Gentry, that he has lifted up the above extraordinary in a style of splendour unprecedented, and on WEDNESDAY, June 10th, he will commence a series of MORNING and EVENING EXHIBITIONS of Mechanical, Galvanic, Magnetic, and Electric Necromantic Spectacles by Livingstone and Dyer, he relies on their patronage for a continuance of that support that has hitherto distinguished his metropolitan career at the Strand Theatre.

Grand Fashionable Morning Performances every day. Doors open at half-past One, commence at Two o'clock precisely.

Classically elegant fashionable Evening Entertainments on Monday and Friday Evenings. Doors open at half-past Seven, commence at Eight o'clock precisely. Reserved seats, 7*s.*; 6*d.*; First Circle, 5*s.*; Second Circle, 3*s.*; 6*d.*

The Wizard will be happy to attend the private parties of the Nobility and Gentry, or give instructions in the art of 'Magique,' on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

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ROYAL GALLERY OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE, ADELAIDE-STREET and LOWTHER ARCADE, WEST STRAND.—New Patent Paint for Rooms, &c. without smell, and drying in three hours; a portion of the Gallery is being painted daily, to show the merits of this valuable invention.—St. Delbrick's Patent Process of uniting Lead to Metals without Solder.—Mr. Drege's improvement in Suspension Bridges.—Reisner's performance on the Accordion.—Steam Gun.—Polarization of Light.—Microscope—Electric Icel alive, and numerous other attractive novelties.—A READING ROOM, well furnished with Literary and Scientific Periodicals, is now open for Subscribers at this institution. Admittance, One Shilling.—Open till Six.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

May 19.—Dr. Henderson, V.P. in the chair.—In consequence of the meeting taking place so soon after the Garden exhibition, the display of plants was not so numerous as on former occasions; the most prominent was a very fine collection of plants consisting of new and ornamental varieties, including *Sprekella glauca*, introduced from Mexico by Mr. Hartweg; *Gesneria faucialis*; Sir Henry Willock's double yellow Persian rose, &c., from the garden of the Society; from Mr. W. Gregory, of Cirencester, three pretty seedling Fuchsias and a seedling *Gloxinia* with fine large flowers; from Mr. J. Rogers, jun., a new species of *Tillandsia*; from Mr. J. A. Henderson, *Aristolochia ciliaris* and *Campylanthra*, a new species from South Australia; from Mr. R. Buck, a rather curious little plant, called *Mantisia saltatoria* (or "Opera girl"); from Mr. Bateman, cut flowers of *Dendrobium moschatum*; from Mr. W. E. Allen, a brace of very fine cucumbers; from Mr. G. Sheills, gardener to Lord Blantyre, specimens of cherries from a flued wall without glass, showing the manner in which they ripen in succession; from Sir Thomas T. Drake, fruit of the *Carica papaya* (the "Papaw"); from Mr. R. Richardson, specimens of net-work to protect fruit from flies and wasps, and green binding for flower plants, &c.

The following prizes were awarded:—the silver Banksian medal to Mr. J. A. Henderson, for *Sollya campylanthra*; to Mr. W. E. Allen, for the cucumbers; and to Mr. G. Sheills, for the cherries.

It was announced that the number of visitors to the First Garden Exhibition was 2,561, and the number of prizes awarded on that occasion was fifteen gold and fifty-eight silver medals, amounting altogether in value to 225*l.* 10*s.*

Dr. Lindley read a paper,* by Mr. W. Beaton, 'On the Culture and Management of the "Cactus Tribe."

The Earl of Lucan, R. W. Barchard, Esq., J. Heywood, Esq., T. J. Lenox, Esq., J. Lenox, Esq., C. Smith, Esq., and J. C. Whiteman, Esq., were elected Fellows.

The following shows the highest and lowest states of the barometer and thermometer, and the amount of rain, as observed at the garden of the Society, between the 5th and the 19th of May, 1840:—

May 18, Barometer, highest	29.883
17, " lowest	29.307
May 10, Thermometer, highest	72° Fah.
18, " lowest	45° "
Total amount of Rain 1.95 inch.	

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert and the Prince of Leiningen visited the Horticultural Society's Garden last week: they appeared much gratified, and greatly admired the new Conservatory.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—May 15.—Dr. W. H. Willshire in the chair.—Mr. Sansom exhibited living specimens of *Leucogonum æstivum*, collected in Greenwich Marshes; and specimens of *Ophrys ararifera*, collected near Dover, were also exhibited.—A paper was read from Mrs. Riley, being part 2 of a Monograph on Ferns, including 'The Arrangement and Classification of the British Ferns, and the best assistances for their study.'

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—May 20.—Mr. Owen, President, in the chair.—Nine members were elected.—Mr. Dalrymple read a paper on the family of *Closterina*, which have been classed by Ehrenberg among the *Polygastric Infusoria*, and by Meyen with *Conferve*. The author described at length the general characters and structure of *Closterium*, the peculiarities of its circulation, and the motion of the active molecules within the shell; and the several modes of reproduction, by spontaneous transverse division, by ova, and by interbudding or the conjugation of two individuals; and concluded by advancing

* This was stated, in mistake, to have been read at the last meeting.

arguments in favour of the *Closterina* being retained to the animal kingdom. The paper was illustrated by living specimens and diagrams.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Geographical Society	Nine, P.M.
	Society of Arts (<i>Illustr.</i>)	Eight.
TUES.	Zoological Society (<i>Scienc. Bus.</i>)	3 p. Eight.
	Botanic Society	Eight.
	Geological Society	3 p. Eight.
	Medico-Botanical Society	Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts	3 p. Seven.
	Literary Fund	Three.
	Astronomical Society	Eight.
THU.	Royal Institution	3 p. Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

LISZT'S PIANOFORTE RECITALS.—M. LISZT will give, at two o'clock on TUESDAY MORNING, June 9, 1840, RECITALS on the PIANOFORTE of the following different Works:—No. 1. Scherzo and Finale from Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. No. 2. Serenade, by Schubert. No. 3. Ave Maria, by Schubert. No. 4. Hexameron, No. 5. Neapolitan Tarentelles. No. 6. Grand Galop Chromatique.—Tickets, 10*s.* 6*d.* each; reserved seats near the pianoforte, 2*s.*; to be had at Cramer & Co.'s, Regent-street; and at the principal Music Warehouses.

MR. BLAGROVE'S GRAND MORNING CONCERT. Patronized by Her Majesty the Queen Dowager, and their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Cambridge, Princess Augusta, and the Duchess of Gloucester, to take place on WEDNESDAY, June 10, at HANOVER ROOMS. Vocalists:—Madame Dorus-Gras, Miss Clara Novello, Miss Dolby, the Misses Williams, and Miss Bruce. Pianoforte, the celebrated Mr. Liszt; Harp, Miss Fanny Croy, (her first appearance); Violin, Mr. Blagrove, who will perform two new pieces. In the course of the Concert, Beethoven's Septuor, by thirty-six instruments. The Orchestra will be complete. Leader, Mr. Loder; Pianoforte accompanist, Mr. Charles Blagrove.—Tickets and Programmes at the Music-shops.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—An opera with one duct, magnificently performed and agreeably composed, and with Lablache in the costume of a Spanish king, so filling the stage by his gorgeous presence as to give the mind, through the eye, a pleasure which there is little chance of its receiving through the ear from *Il Maestro Persiani's* music—such, at best, is 'Inez di Castro.' The force and passion of the well-known historical passage having, according to custom, been tamed out of the *libretto*, the latter is as weak and hackneyed in its structure as the musician *could not desire*; and, but for the energetic acting of Lablache, and—wonderful to add—of Rubini in the duet above mentioned, the audience would have separated as unmoved in mood as if a lecture had been read, in place of a tragedy presented. As regards the composition, from the first foolish bars of the overture, to the "dying fall" of the final chord of the *prima donna's* mad scene—not all the admirable singing of Persiani and Rubini, who, indeed, outdid themselves in delicacy, finish, and brilliancy to the audacious point—the former touching *è flat altissimo*, the latter a high soprano note, which we will not name, lest our ears have deceived us—could hide from us the truth, that the work is utterly barren, poor, and common-place. A week ago, we should have thought it impossible that we could think wistfully of Donizetti; yet we did, while suffering our first weariness under the insinuation of 'Inez di Castro.' Are there no operas by Pacini, to go no further back—to mount no higher in the scale of classicity—which, if revived, would be more agreeable to the ear than this hackneyed and ungracious music? The scenery and stage arrangements were good. On Tuesday evening, after its second performance, Taglioni re-appeared in 'La Gitana.' If

Time, like the winged wind,
When 't bends the flowers,
has touched her features in a manner not to be mistaken, since she was last here, he has also given her, if that could be, more grace, more lightness, more elegance, a more consummate power of harmoniously linking together the separate details of her performance. The applause with which she was greeted by a closely-crowded house, was all too little.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—'Euryanthe.'—This opera has been, as a performance, the most satisfactory work presented at the Prince's Theatre. It speaks well for the musical skill of all concerned, that a composition in which every vocal difficulty has been accumulated by the author—who, while writing it, considered only how best to develop the emotions proper to the personages of the story—should be gone through, not only correctly, but with mastery over all its varying effects. Still, as no ledger-domin since our last report has changed the individual artists into agreeable singers, we must pass

them, with this general praise, to dwell on the genius of Weber, in speaking of his master-work. Such, indeed, we feel 'Euryanthe' to be. It has too long suffered under the nickname given to it by the shallow pedants who, on its first production—and with Sontag, too, in its principal character—christened it 'L'Ennuyante.' It has too long been neglected, owing to the one-sidedness of chamber-musicians, who,—because on trying it at the piano they found its combinations new, its rhythmical difficulties great, and its passion so closely interpreting scenic declamation and action, as to demand both to be fully understood,—dubbed it obscure, unintelligible, and spoke of it—as some spoke, too, of Beethoven's Choral Symphony—with that vague respect which, if read aright, means contemptuous assurance that the thing, admired at a distance, is not worth knowing intimately! Yet who would believe, that in the mere vulgar requisite for catching the ear, namely, tunefulness, none of the barrel-organ operas of the modern Italian school (now, for the most part, subsisting on the strength of one *cavatina* or duet, at the utmost) deserves to be mentioned in the same day with this German work, so rashly voted incomprehensible? Where, for instance, shall we find an opening chorus so rich in a simple and stately melody—an *entrata* for tenor and soprano, more graceful and full of sweetness, than *Adolar's* romance, and *Euryanthe's* garden song—where a *finale* which sets heads and feet to beat time as resistlessly as the delicious and brilliant quartet at the end of the first act?—where an Italian illustration of 'Gieja' or 'Felicità' more rapturously entrancing than the 'Hin nimm die Seele mein' of the re-united lovers, in the second act?—where two more captivating movements than the May Song and the Hunters' Chorus of the third?—the duet between *Eglantine* and *Euryanthe* (Act 1), and *Adolar's* grand aria (Act 2), not being forgotten, in this enumeration of portions which are calculated, not only to delight the thoughtful, but to fascinate all such as know little of Music save by impulse! And yet, these ten pieces disposed of, the whole dramatic strength of the opera still remains to be thrown into the scale by which merit is to be adjudged—the entire music given to *Eglantine* and *Lysart*—the stupendous *finale* to the second act—the whole part of *Euryanthe* in the third—not forgetting her *bravura*, the effect of which stands alone among dramatic music, as expressing rapturous and delirious eagerness, the last leaping-up of the flame ere it sinks into darkness! Nor is this illustration of griefs and emotions, common to all epochs and conditions of humanity, displayed in the conduct of a fable, turning on events of the same character as are told in Shakspeare's tale of Imogen—pursued to the forgetfulness of local costume and colour. 'Der Freischütz' is not fuller of the mystery of the woods, and the joy of open-air life—'Preciosa' not more instinct with quaint and entrancing gipsy grace—'Oberon' not more fairy-ish and oriental, than 'Euryanthe' is chivalresque. There is a romantic elevation of tone in every note, clear of the supernatural, or the grotesque, or the homely, which raises the mind of him who has "ears to hear" to the high level of the old days of Romance! So much, and yet not enough, of the spirit with which Weber could animate a complicated story, feebly and undramatically told. The work, indeed, were well worth a year's labour to produce a new opera-book; for it stands by the side of the 'Fidelio,' on the highest pinnacle of excellence, as a specimen of the legitimate German lyric drama. Of its wonderful musical construction, we are not now able to speak—possibly we may take another opportunity of so doing, having it earnestly at heart, that so splendid an emanation of Genius should be welcomed, and adopted, and comprehended as it deserves—its effects felt properly by our amateurs, its principles examined and pondered by all our rising professors.

M. Benedict's Concert.—This is generally known as the most brilliant entertainment of the season, for all such as desire, on the same occasion, to meet with the flower of the foreign vocal and instrumental talent in London. M. Benedict's last, moreover, was his best Concert. We had the Italian Opera singers—Rubini charming, in a delicate and graceful romance by the *bénéficiaire*—Lablache deliciously whimsical in a genuine Neapolitan *extravaganza*,—Grisi and

Persiani encored in 'Sull' aria,' and Mad. Dorus-Gras carrying away the honours from both prima donnas, by a display of mastery and florid execution, the like of which has not been heard since Mdle. Sontag left the orchestra;—to say nothing of Madame Caradori, Madame Stockhausen, her niece, and Miss Hawes; Mr. John Parry, in his genuinely comic song of 'The Musical Wife,' representing male English singing. The instrumental attractions were not less signal—comprising M. Liszt in all his glory, excellently played up to, in Thalberg's Norma Duet, by M. Benedict, and M. Ole Bull. Of both these gentlemen we shall have to speak next week; enough then, for the present, to say, that the former gains upon us with every hearing; and that no one is capable of appreciating his talent, who has not had, by frequent experience, an opportunity of becoming acquainted with its amazing variety. M. A. Batta's violoncello playing was another delightful thing—sweet and expressive, without languor, and highly finished, without coldness of tone or pettiness of detail—a thing not only to catch, but to keep public favour. His solo performance of an operatic fantasia on themes from the everlasting 'Lucia'—and of 'La Romanesca,' an old French dance, quaint and lulling as a cradle tune—was all the more relished by us, from our experience of its compatibility with the most entire mastery over the severe and classical music of the great masters. Being pressed for space, we can but add, that M. Benedict's Concert, if fascinating to the general audience, who listen and are pleased, not knowing wherefore, was more than commonly interesting to ourselves, as illustrating the present state of modern executive art. If it must be admitted that the vocalists have generally forgotten the really grand traditions of their forefathers, we may, on the other hand, rejoice in the belief that the instrumentalists have advanced. No one now, be he ever so brilliant, can keep his place before the public by a mere dazzling show of trickery, independent of sound harmonies and large flowing melodies; and, so long as this is the case, we cannot join certain of our contemporaries in bewailing the days of composition as gone by, to return no more.

Mr. Eliason's Concert.—The principal feature of this well-composed entertainment, was the violin-playing of its giver, who performed with M. Liszt Beethoven's grand Kreutzer Sonata, in his best style—that is, with a strong feeling for all the points in the composition, carrying him through, in spite of occasional defects of tone and executive finish. There was much clever singing—the most welcome solo performances to our ears being those by Madame Dorus-Gras. But a thing yet more welcome than these, was 'The Prisoners' Chorus' from 'Fidelio,' and the Hunting Chorus from 'Der Freischütz,' by the German choir from the Prince's Theatre. Familiar as the former has now become to English ears, it has the seal of permanence upon it; and whenever, and however we hear it, (much more, when sung so admirably as on Monday,) it never fails to excite us as strongly as in the first days when we made acquaintance with it under the auspices of Mr. Monck Mason, at the Opera House.

Miss Masson and the Misses Broadhurst's Concert.—The programme of this Concert would have deserved to the full the large company assembled to listen to its fulfilment, had not the ladies who gave the entertainment been themselves worthier of attention than many artists before whom the trumpet is blown louder. While listening to Miss Emily Broadhurst's performance of one of Hummel's great Concert rondos, we could not but ask ourselves which of her sister pianistes could have given it with more propriety and ease,—a nicer division of phrases, and a clearer enunciation of passages, in execution; and this, be it remembered, is a trying moment for all professors of her instrument! Of Miss Masson's thoroughly classical style and musical science we have often spoken—dwelling upon them all the more emphatically, because, while other English singers throw away, or fail to work out excellent natural gifts and endowments, she, with more limited, and less manageable powers, stands almost alone as the *artiste* to whom a composer, whether of the ancient or modern school, could intrust his music, with the certainty of its being thoroughly felt, and rendered neither carelessly nor mechanically, but with refine-

ment, intelligence, and originality of conception. A fine voice and a fine singer are so often confounded in this country, that we cannot but insist on the distinction, whenever we have such good opportunity as in the present instance.

HAYMARKET.—Mr. Charles Kean appeared here as *Hamlet*, on Monday, after his trip to America, and met with a reception that showed no abatement of public admiration; he looks well, and is in full possession of his powers, which he exerted with more than usual success, resulting from a higher degree of finish. Of his performance of *Hamlet* we need only repeat the remark we made before, that the executive details are too prominent. Mr. Kean is announced as being engaged for twelve nights only, during which he merely repeats two or three well-known characters. We had hoped this "starring" system was getting into disrepute: the theatres are not so rife of attractions that they should divide instead of concentrating their forces. Buckstone, who is announced as fulfilling a farewell engagement previous to his departure for America, resumed his place in the company, and in his popular farce of 'Married Life.'

MISS KELLY'S THEATRE has closed for the present. The attempt to attract the public to see old pieces performed by a small company at large prices, failed, notwithstanding the prestige of Miss Kelly's talent and reputation. The attractive power must indeed be great, that could induce rational people to spend four hours of this glorious weather in the mephitic atmosphere of a theatre,—only fashion might, genius could not do it.

MISCELLANEA

York Minster.—We are indebted to the editor of the *Yorkshireman* for a copy of that paper, containing authentic particulars of the mischief done by the late fire—from which it appears, that the roof of the nave is destroyed, and the walls are scarred, broken, and discoloured; the south-western tower is a complete shell; the shafts and tracery of the windows much injured—five or six serious cracks are visible; but Mr. Pritchett, the architect, who has made a minute survey, by the direction of the dean and chapter, expresses his opinion confidently, that the tower need not be taken down, although it would be hazardous to hang the bells in it again. During the high wind on Sunday last, several fragments were blown down; but the tower, although so much exposed, did not appear to suffer from the gales.

Numismatics.—An earthen vase has been lately dug up at Tourmagne, containing ten silver medals, some of which are said to be very curious. Struck at Maguelonne (the ancient *Mesma*), they bear, on one side, the head of one of those pirate chiefs, who, in the beginning of the eighth century, were in the habit of bringing to Maguelonne (an asylum for them) the fruits of their piracies, and taking in water and provisions there, for new expeditions. The reverse has a cross, bearing a crescent in each of its four angles—a hybrid symbol, indicating the treaty concluded between the Saracen chiefs and the Bishop of Maguelonne,—and subsequently condemned by a council. Others of these medals belong to the Gauls; and exhibit, on one side, a head of a very marked character, and, on the other, a war-hatchet. Of these, there is one of Nimes, extremely rare. It is in silver, like all the others, and bears a head crowned with a diadem. On the reverse is a horseman in full gallop, a helmet on his head, the left hand guiding his charger, and the right armed with a *gese* (gæsum)—a sort of javelin, used by the Gauls, as it was by the Latins. Below is the legend *Nema*. Of this very curious medal, Ménard mentions the existence of only one. "It gives the most perfect assurance," says that historian, "that the Gauls retained a profound veneration for the founder of Nimes, whom they regarded as the descendant of Hercules, and worshipped under the name of *Nemausus*." The medal must date several centuries before the Christian era.

Fouché, who till a few days ago was minister of police, and was supposed to have the confidence of Bonaparte, was at Nantes one of the most violent revolutionists, in the very spirit, it is said, of Carrier. It is reported of him, that he used at one time to wear in his hat the ear of an aristocrat, in the manner of a national cockade.—*Romilly's Memoirs*.

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